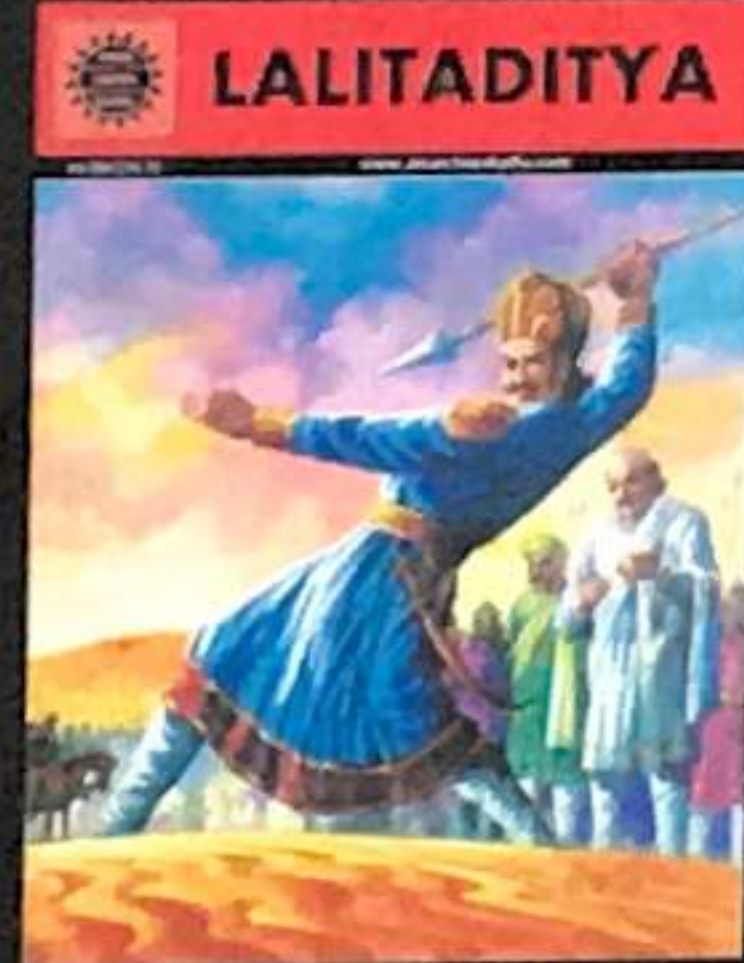


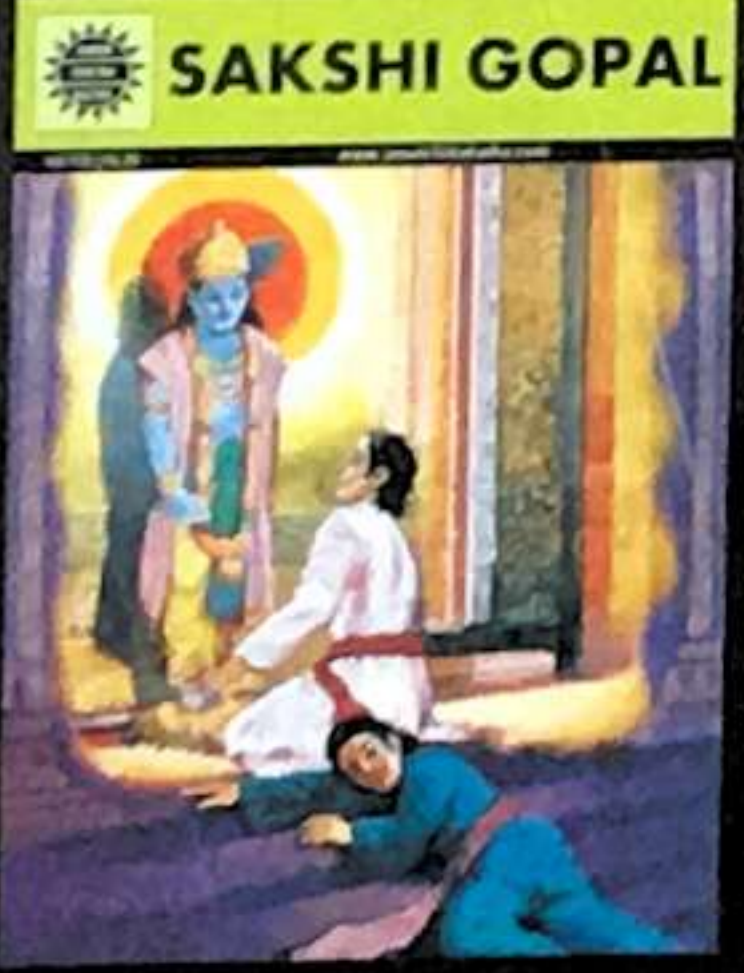
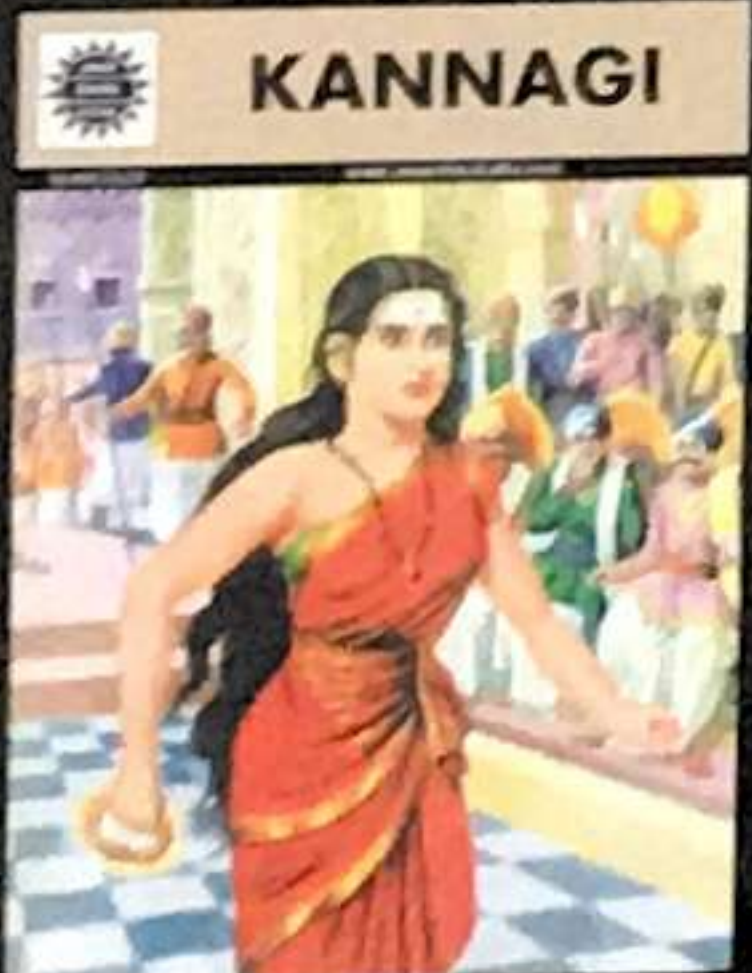
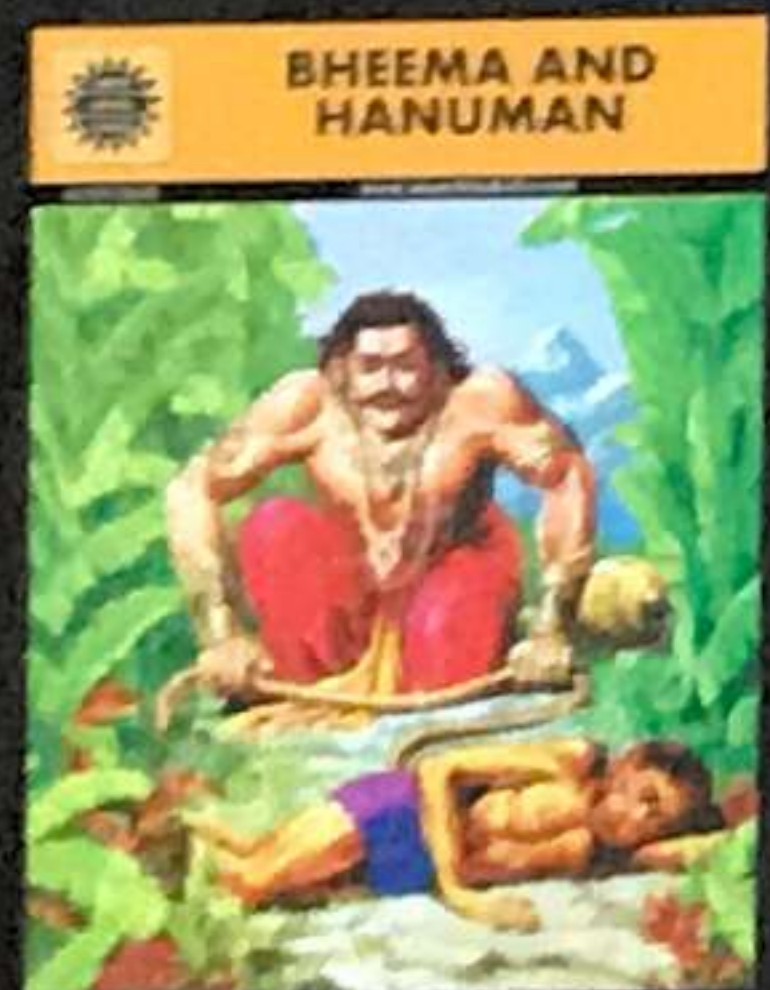
CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA

Chandragupta Maurya defeated the Nandas and established himself on the throne of Magadha in 321 B.C. It was a journey fraught with dangerous challenges but his chance meeting with the wily Chanakya changed his destiny forever. The clever Brahmin showed him how by the sheer brilliance of his wit and wile he could help the young Mauryan prince to rise from being an unknown warrior to one of the greatest emperors of India.

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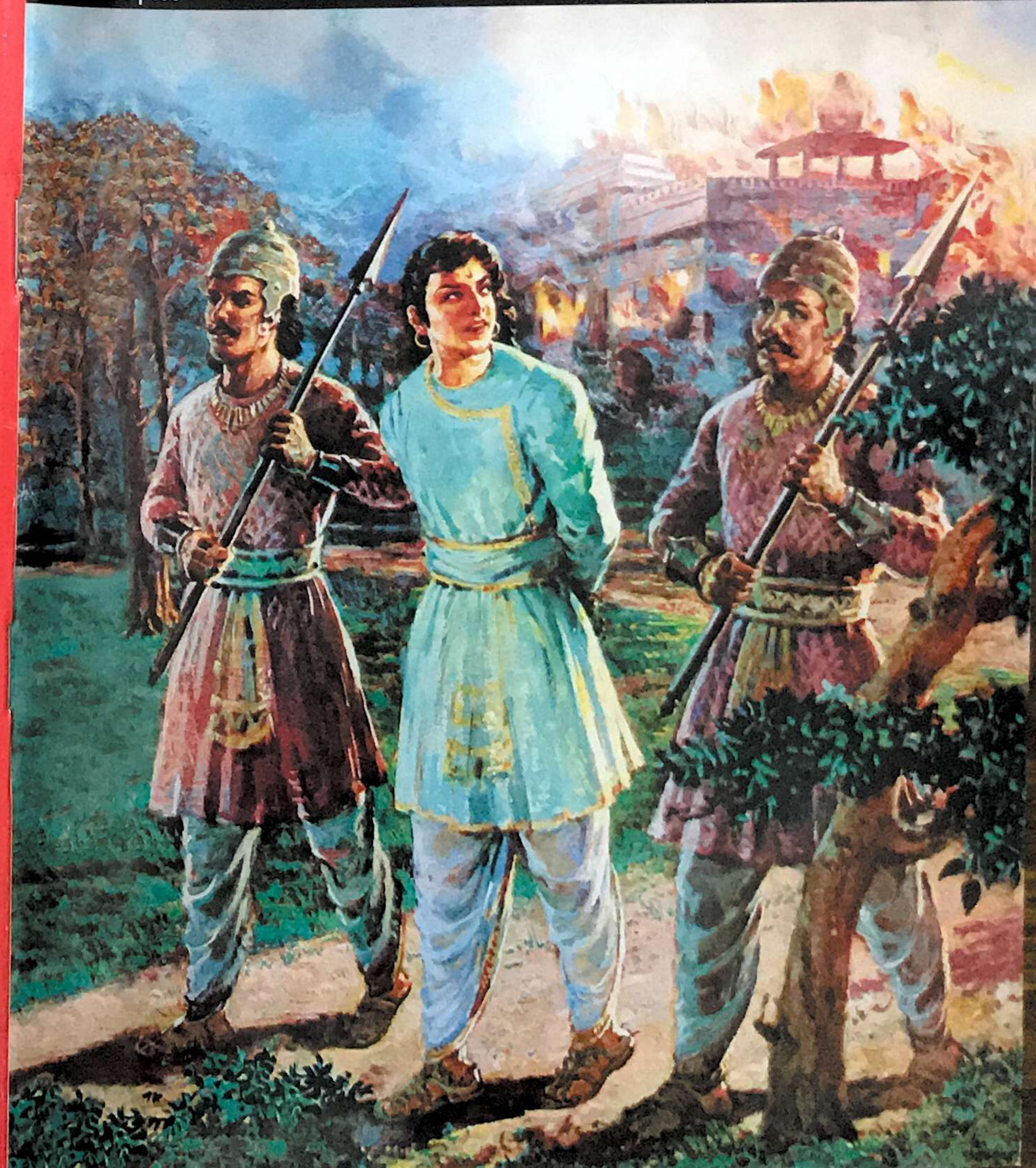
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THE DETERMINED PRINCE

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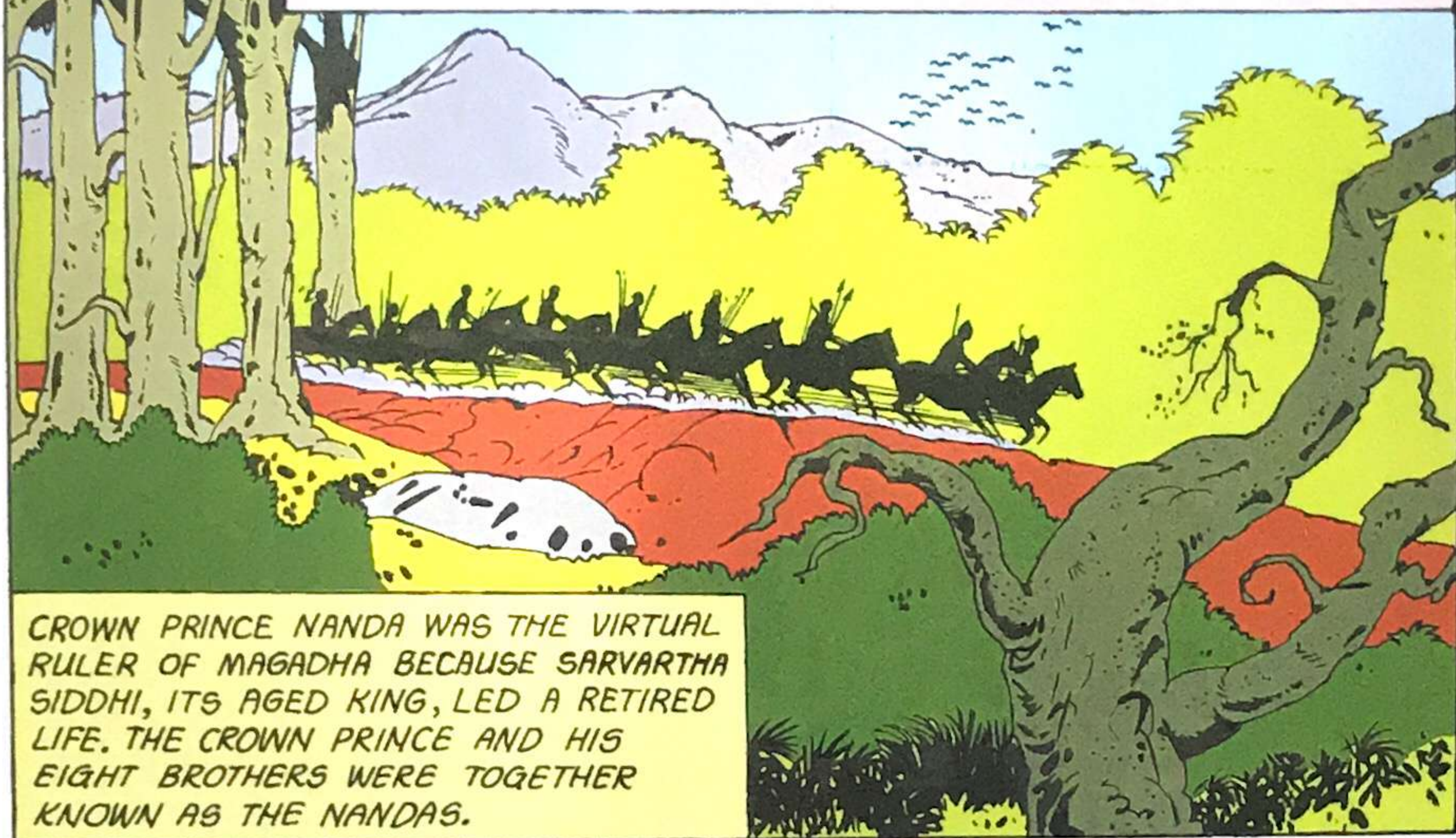


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CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA



CROWN PRINCE NANDA WAS THE VIRTUAL RULER OF MAGADHA BECAUSE SARVARTHA SIDDHI, ITS AGED KING, LED A RETIRED LIFE. THE CROWN PRINCE AND HIS EIGHT BROTHERS WERE TOGETHER KNOWN AS THE NANDAS.

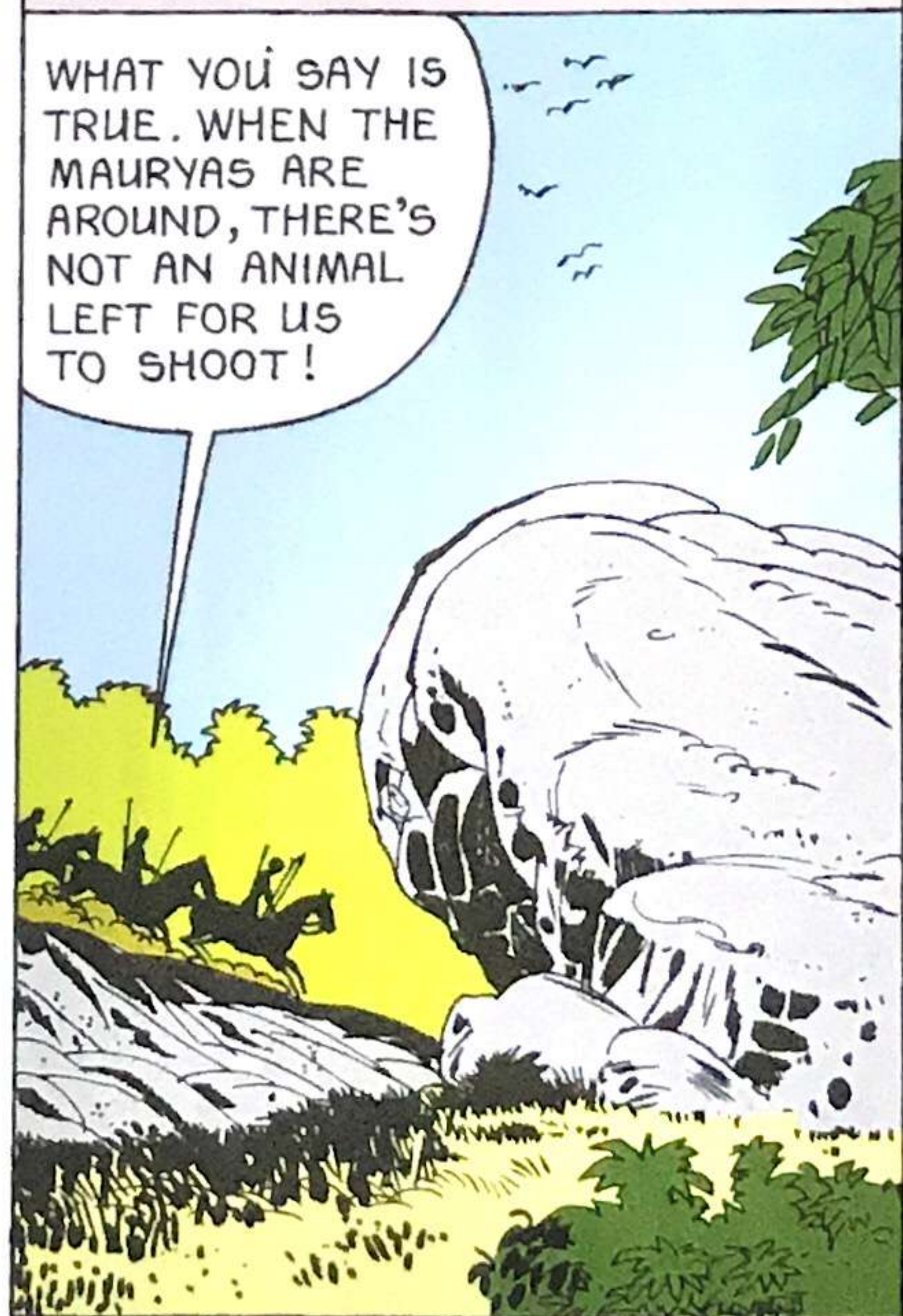
THAT WAS THE BEST HUNT WE'VE EVER HAD.

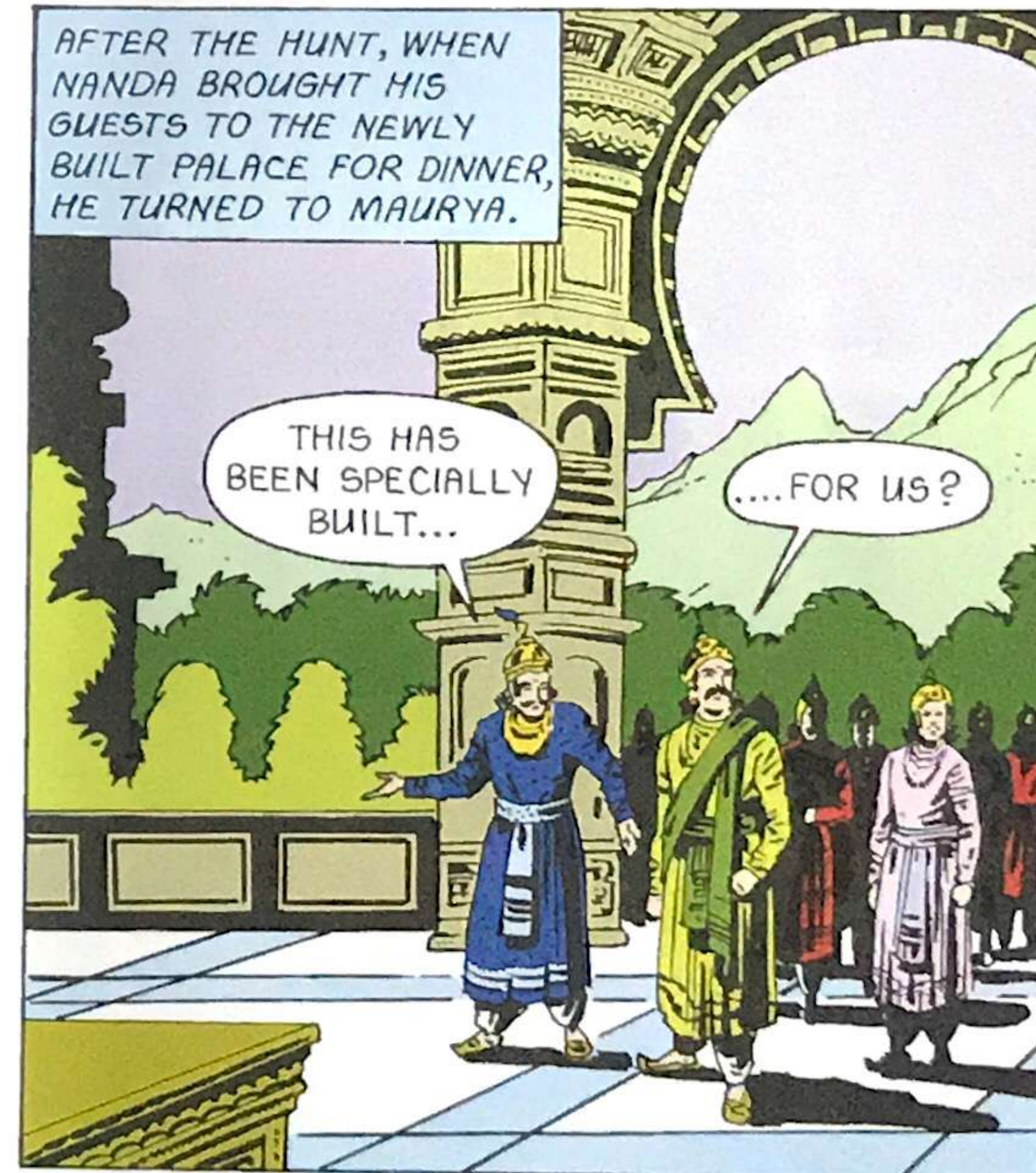
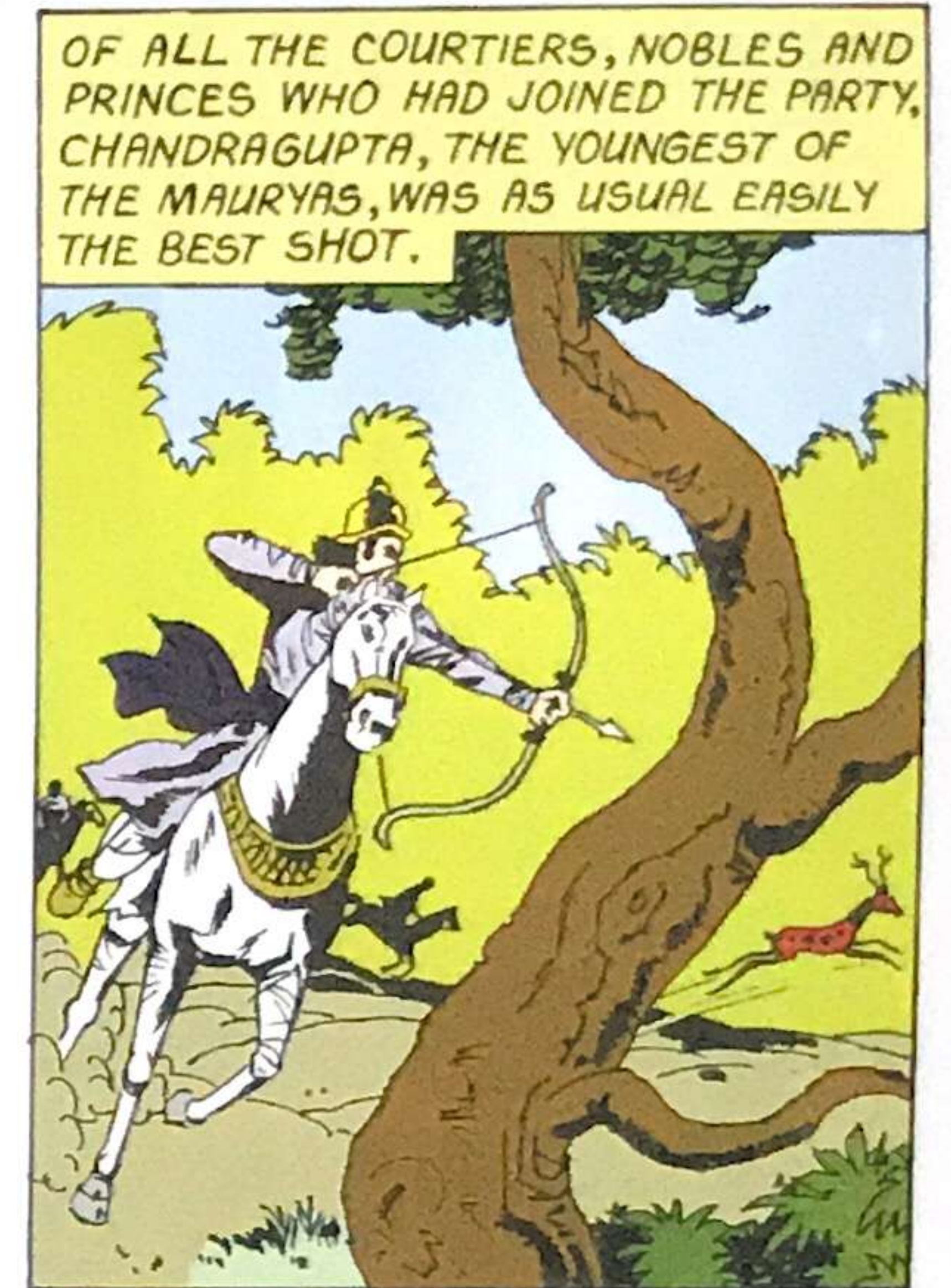
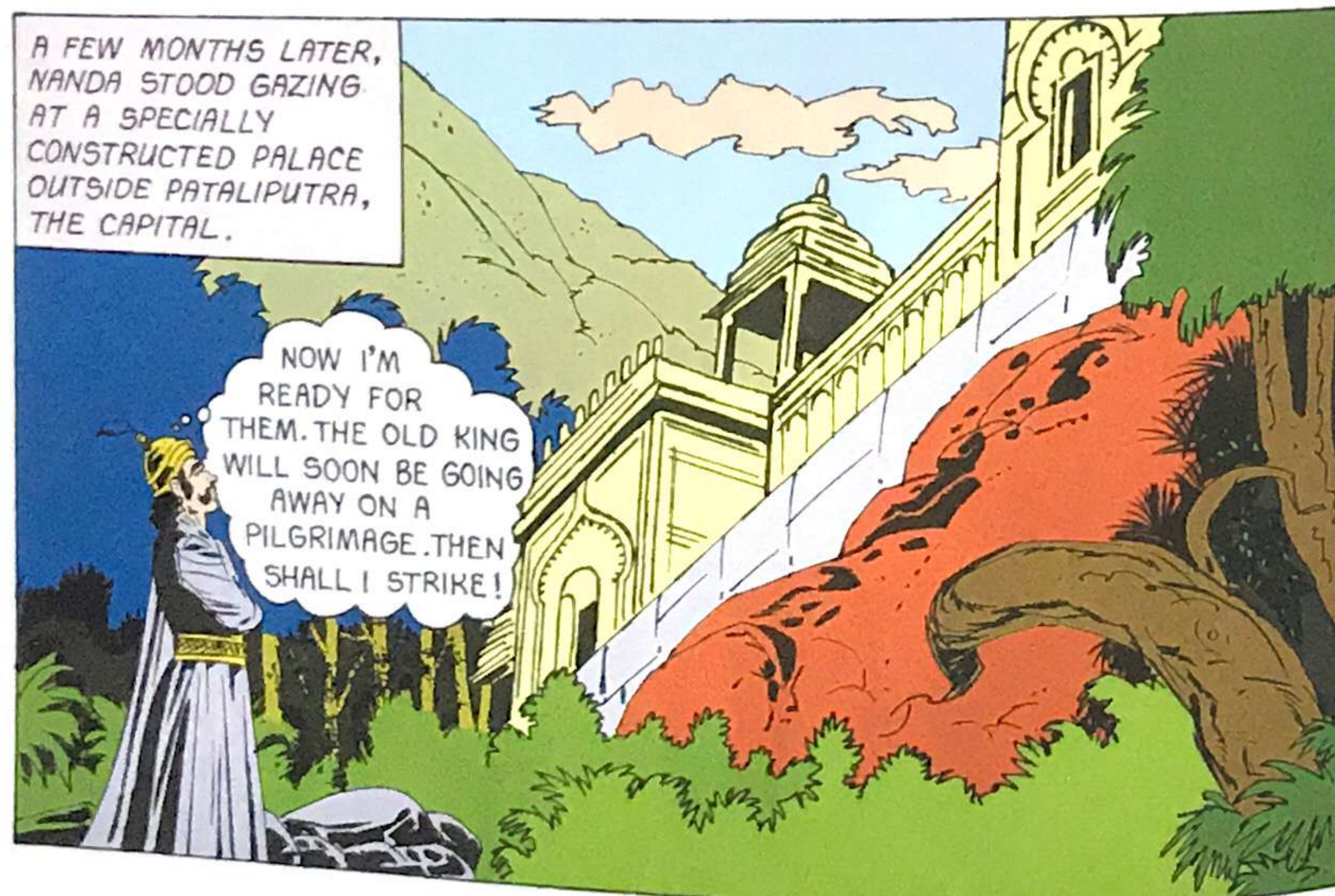
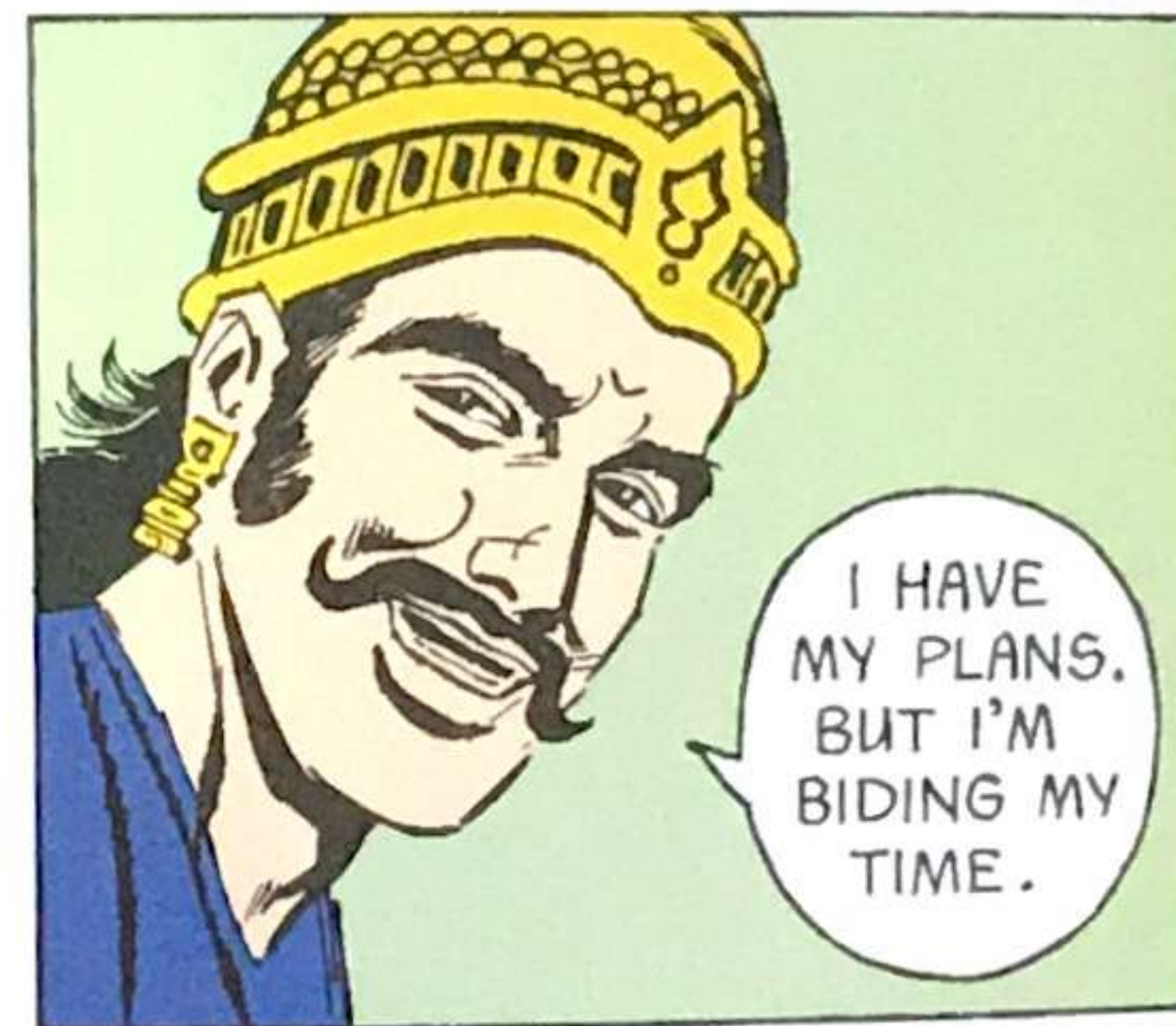
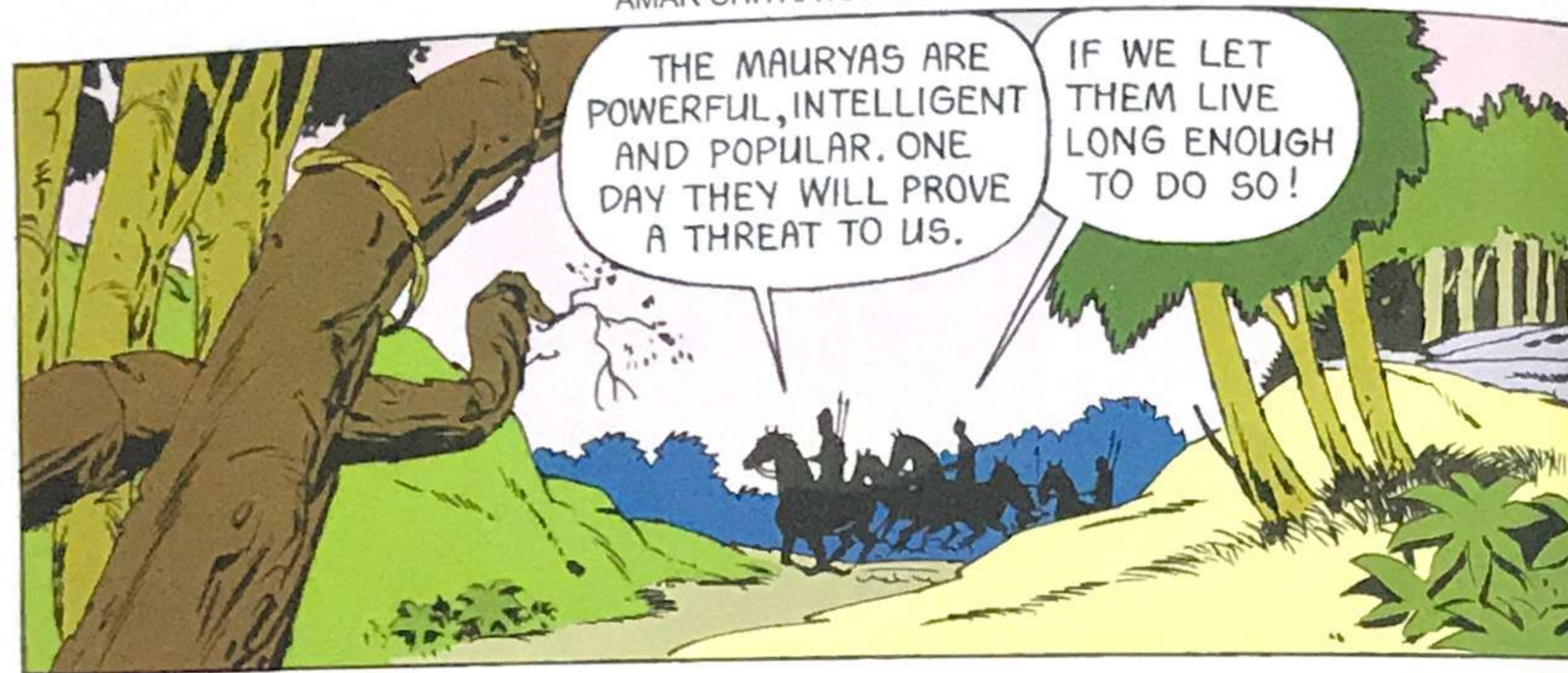
ONLY BECAUSE WE DIDN'T INVITE OUR COUSIN, MAURYA, AND HIS HUNDRED SONS TO JOIN US!

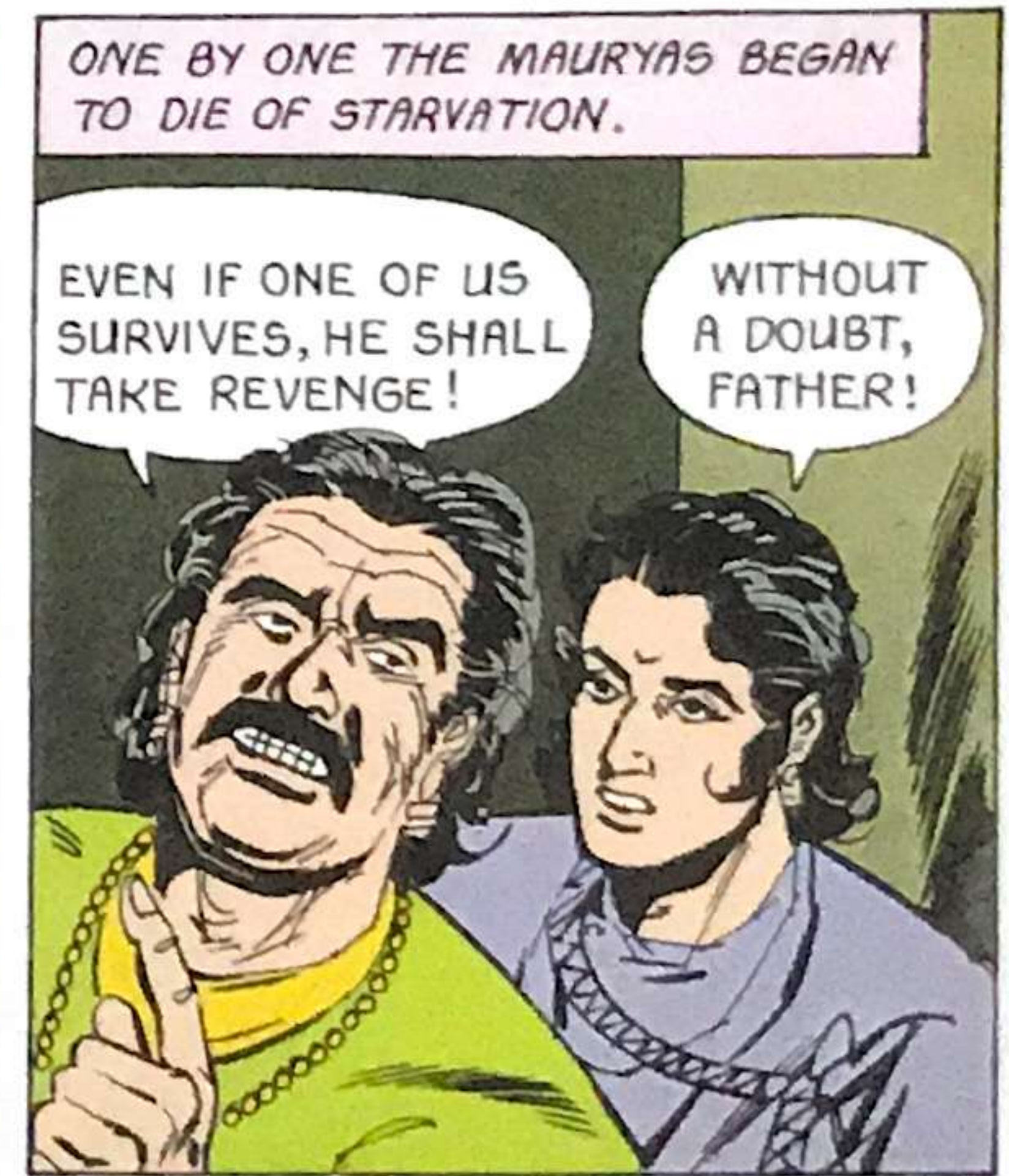


NOT THAT NANDA DIDN'T KNOW IT!

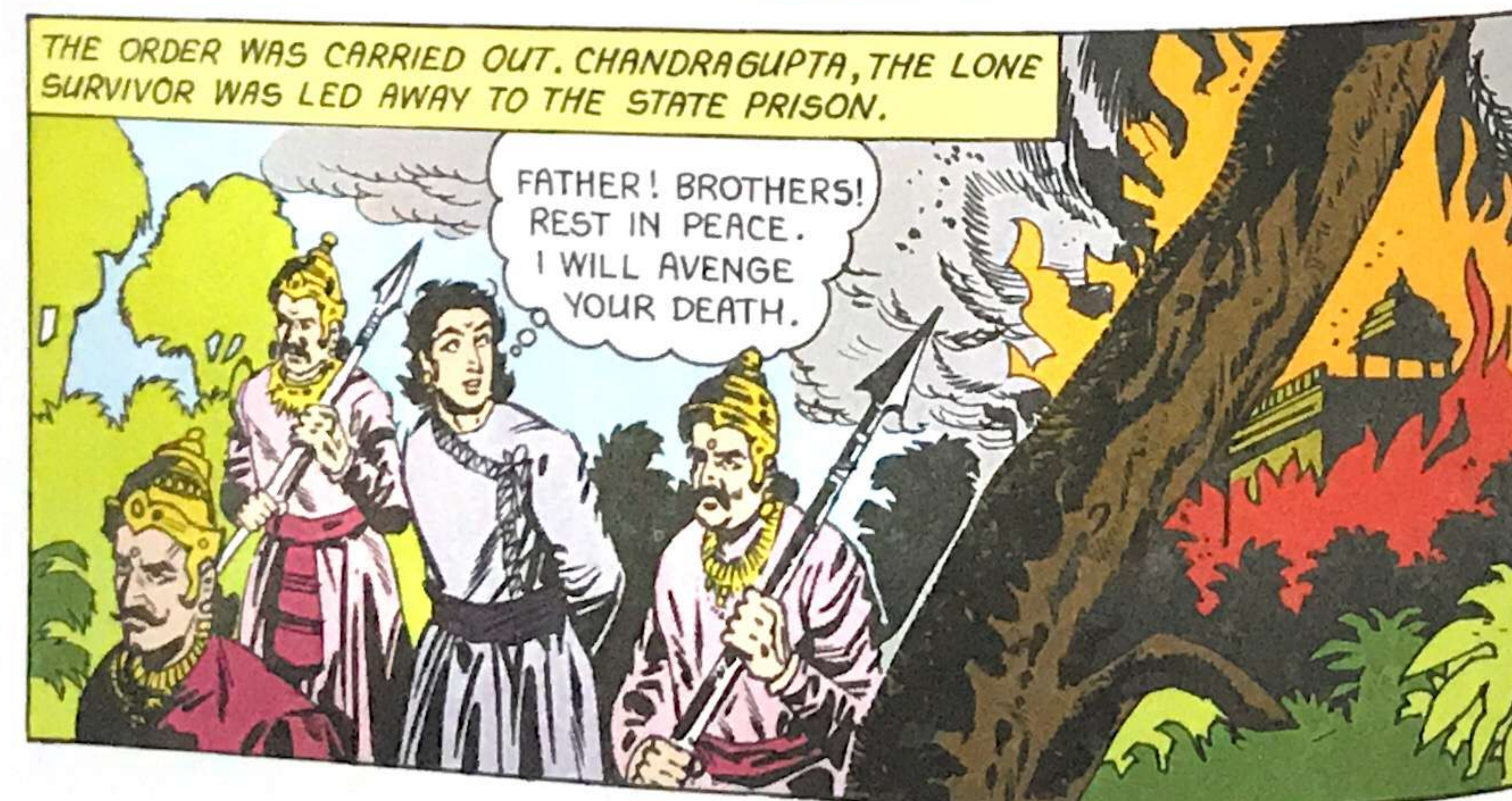
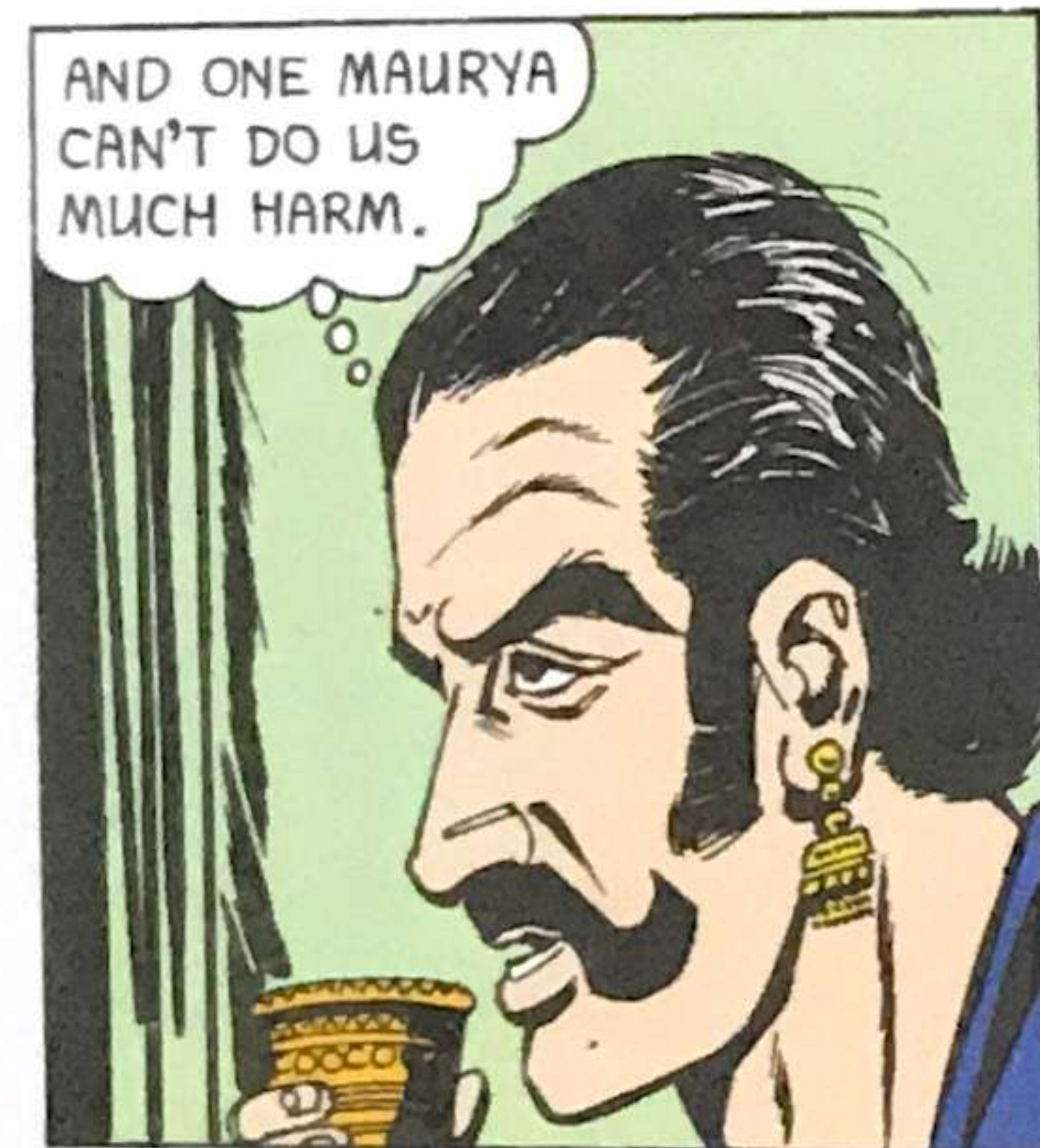
WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE. WHEN THE MAURYAS ARE AROUND, THERE'S NOT AN ANIMAL LEFT FOR US TO SHOOT!



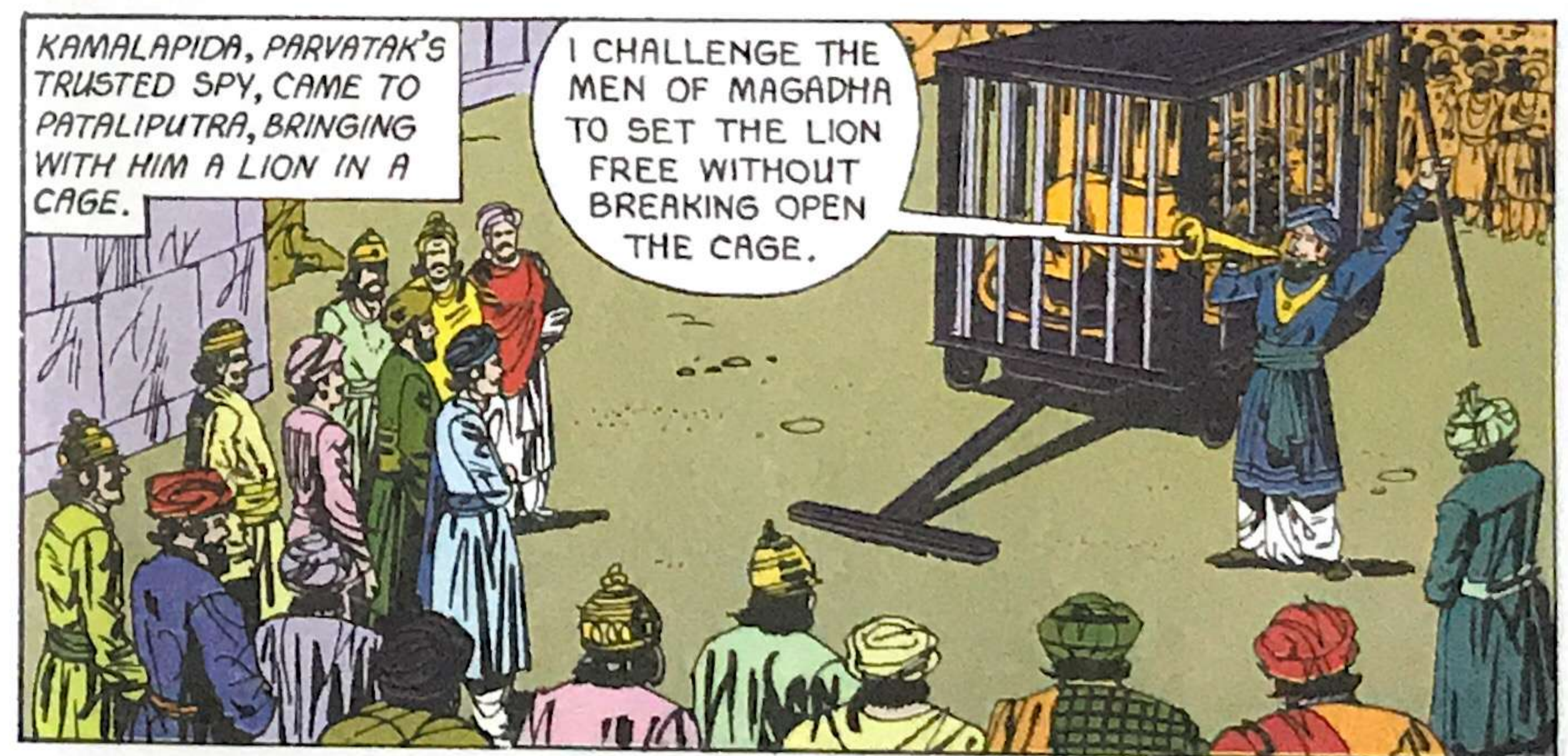
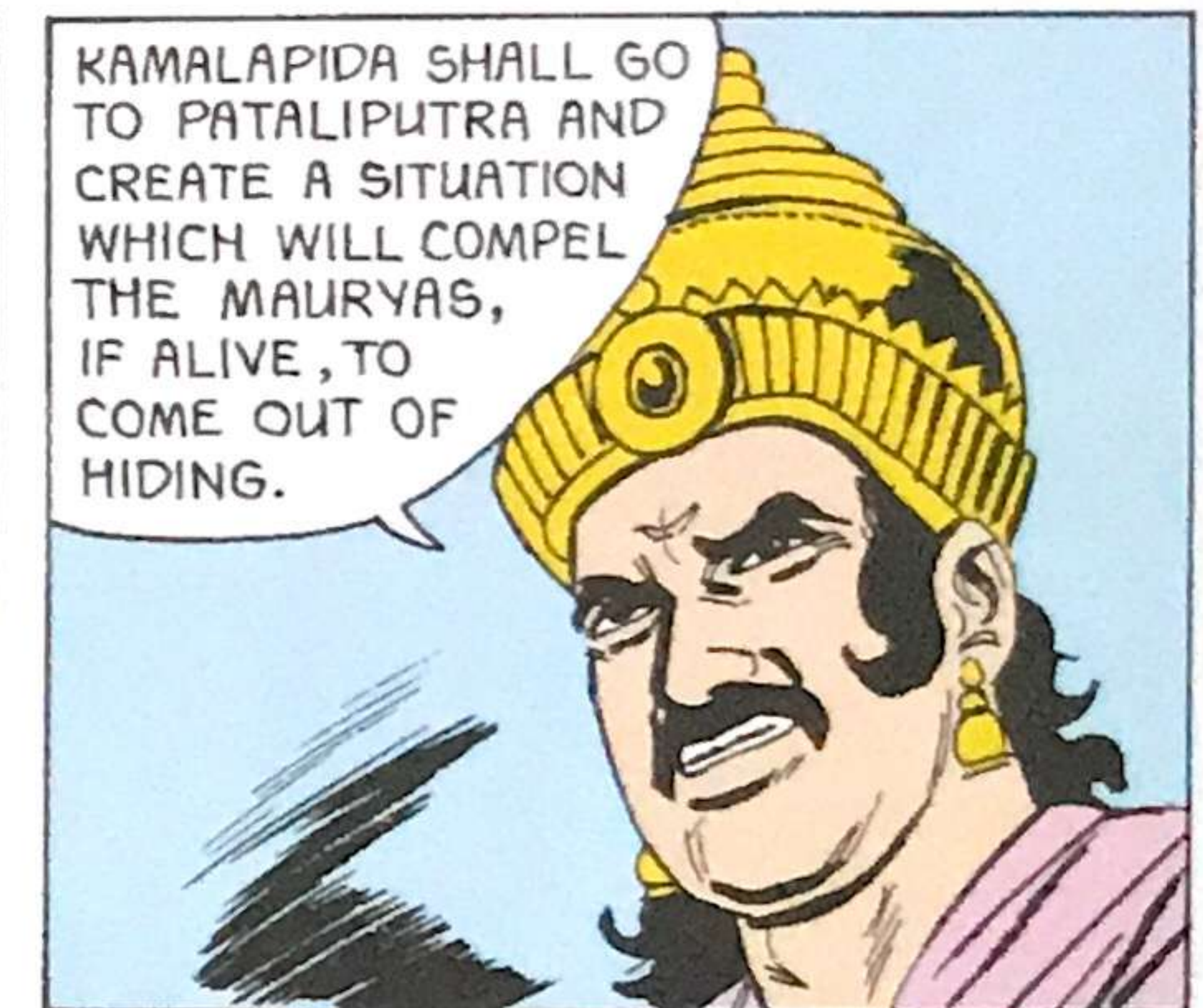


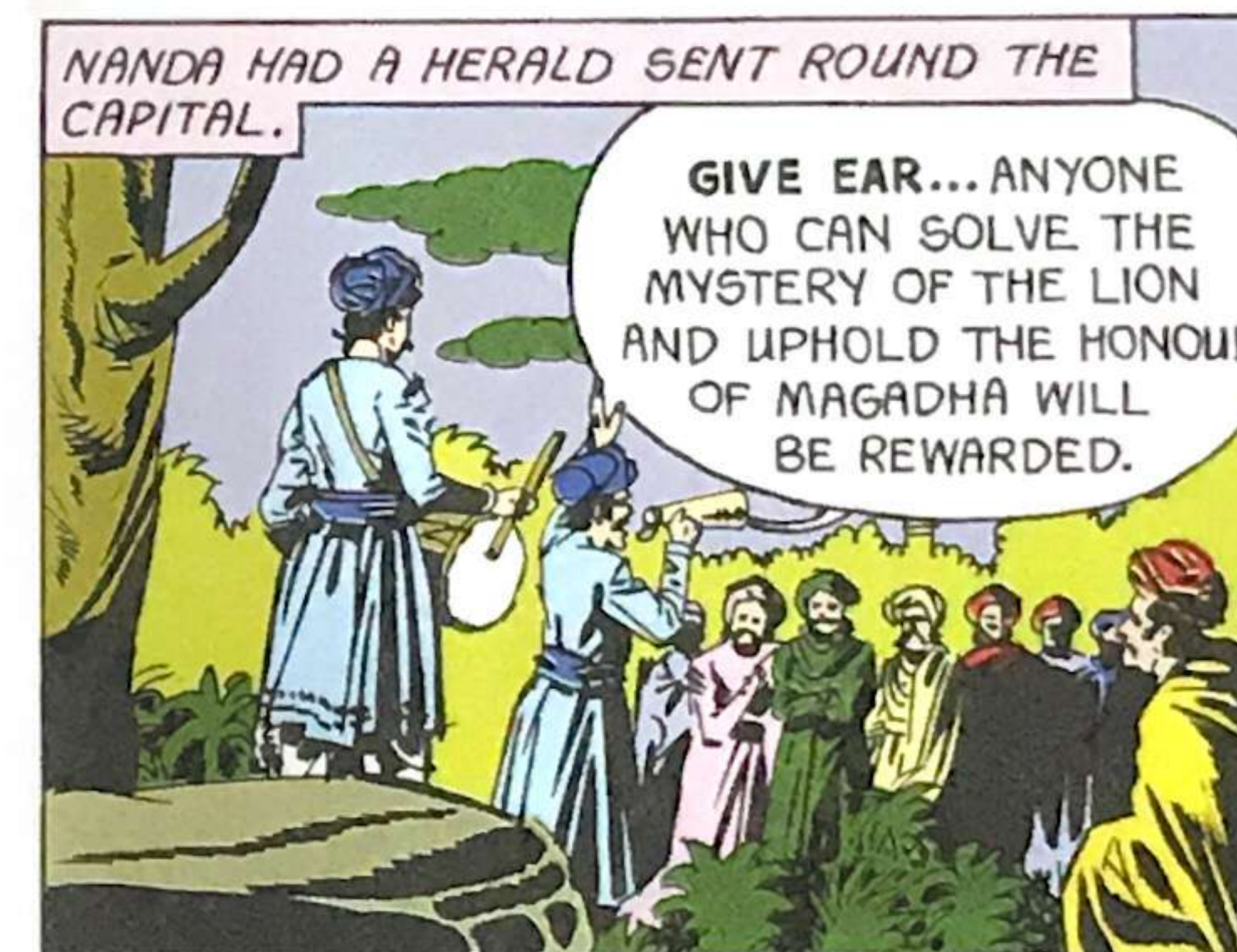
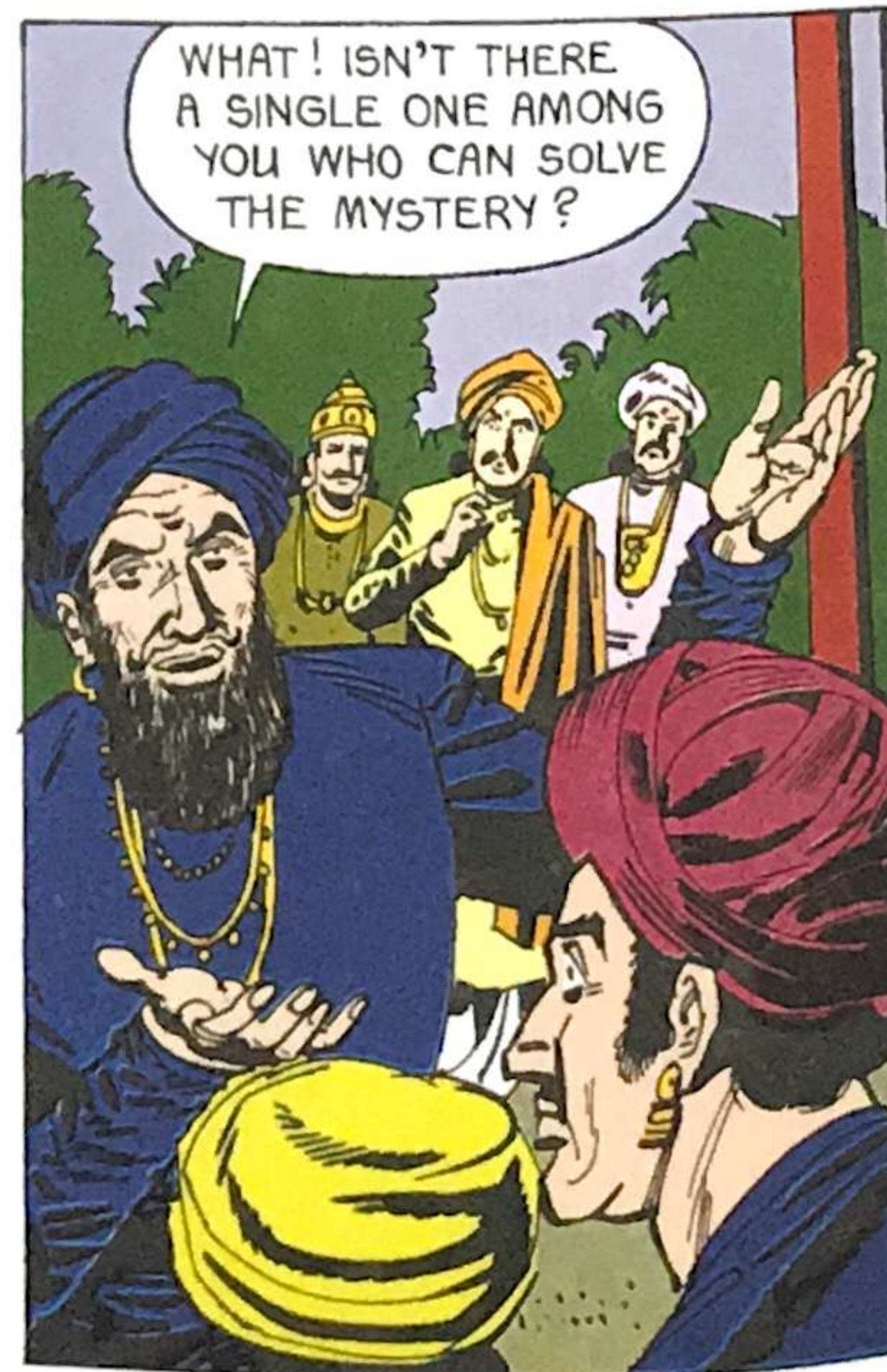


A FEW DAYS LATER, THE GUARDS REPORTED TO NANDA.



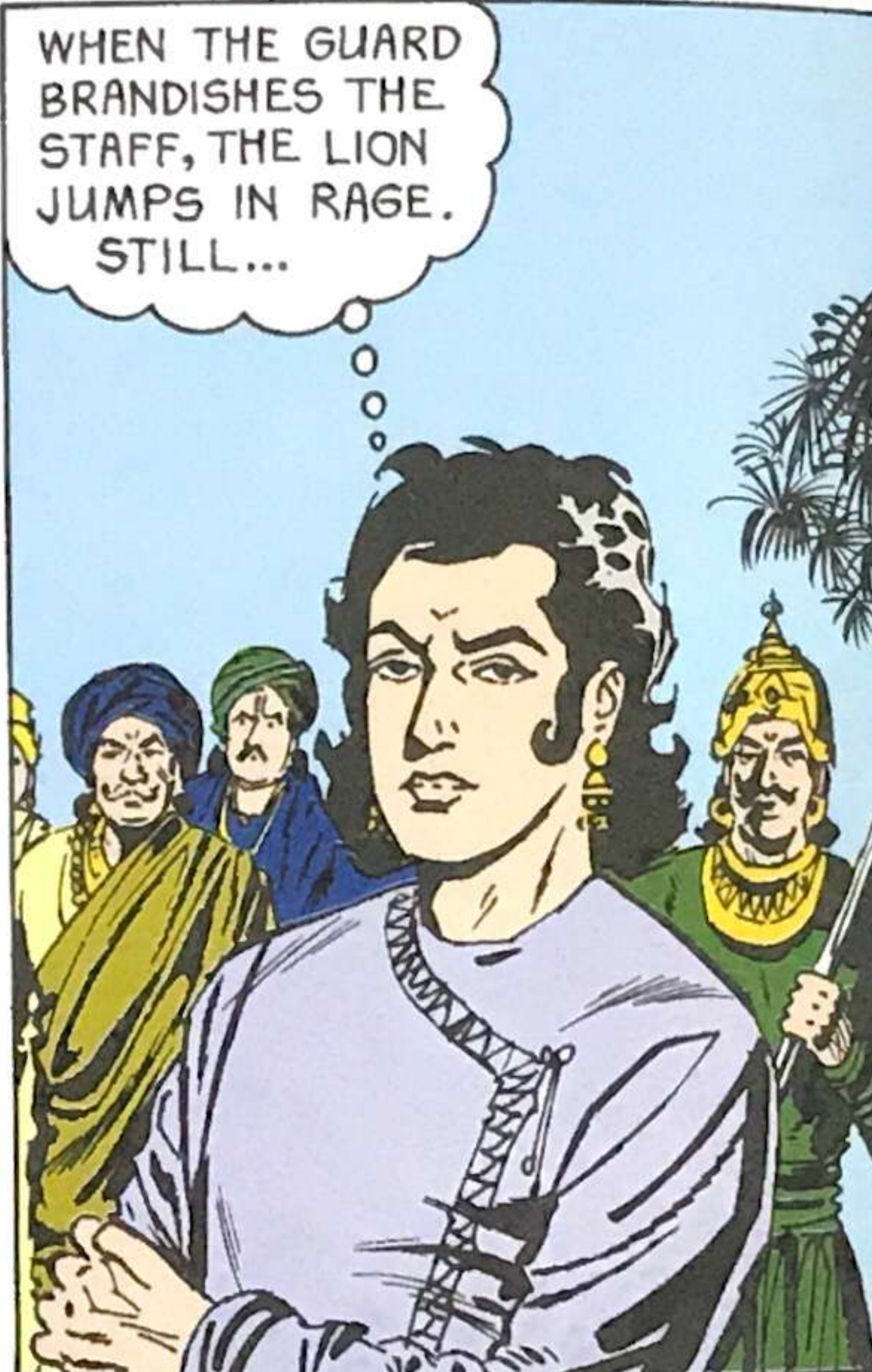
MEANWHILE, THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY MAURYS HAD SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. KING PARVATAK OF PARVATA DESH WAS JUBILANT. HE SENT FOR HIS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.



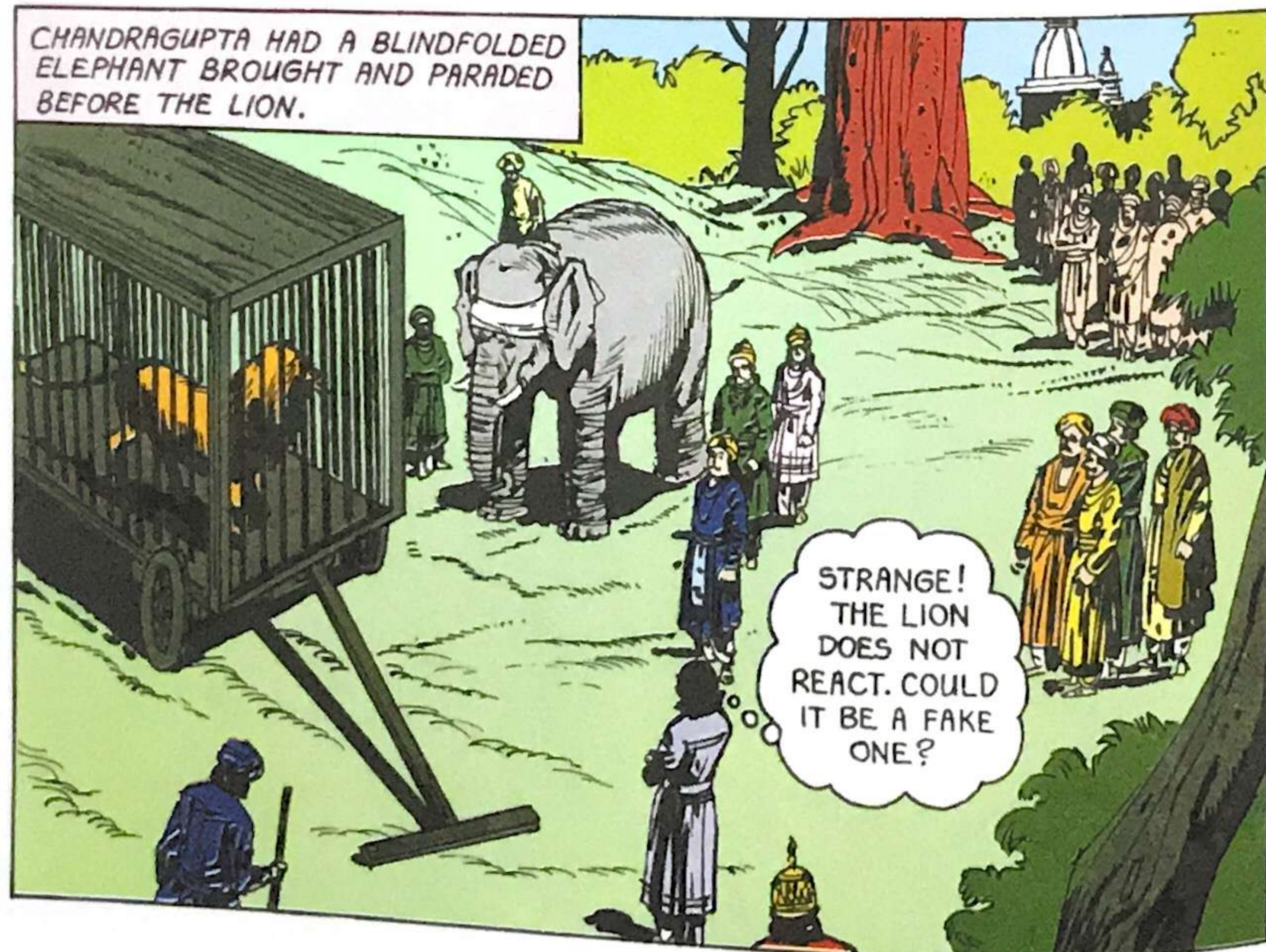




CHANDRAGUPTA HAD A GOOD LOOK AT THE LION.

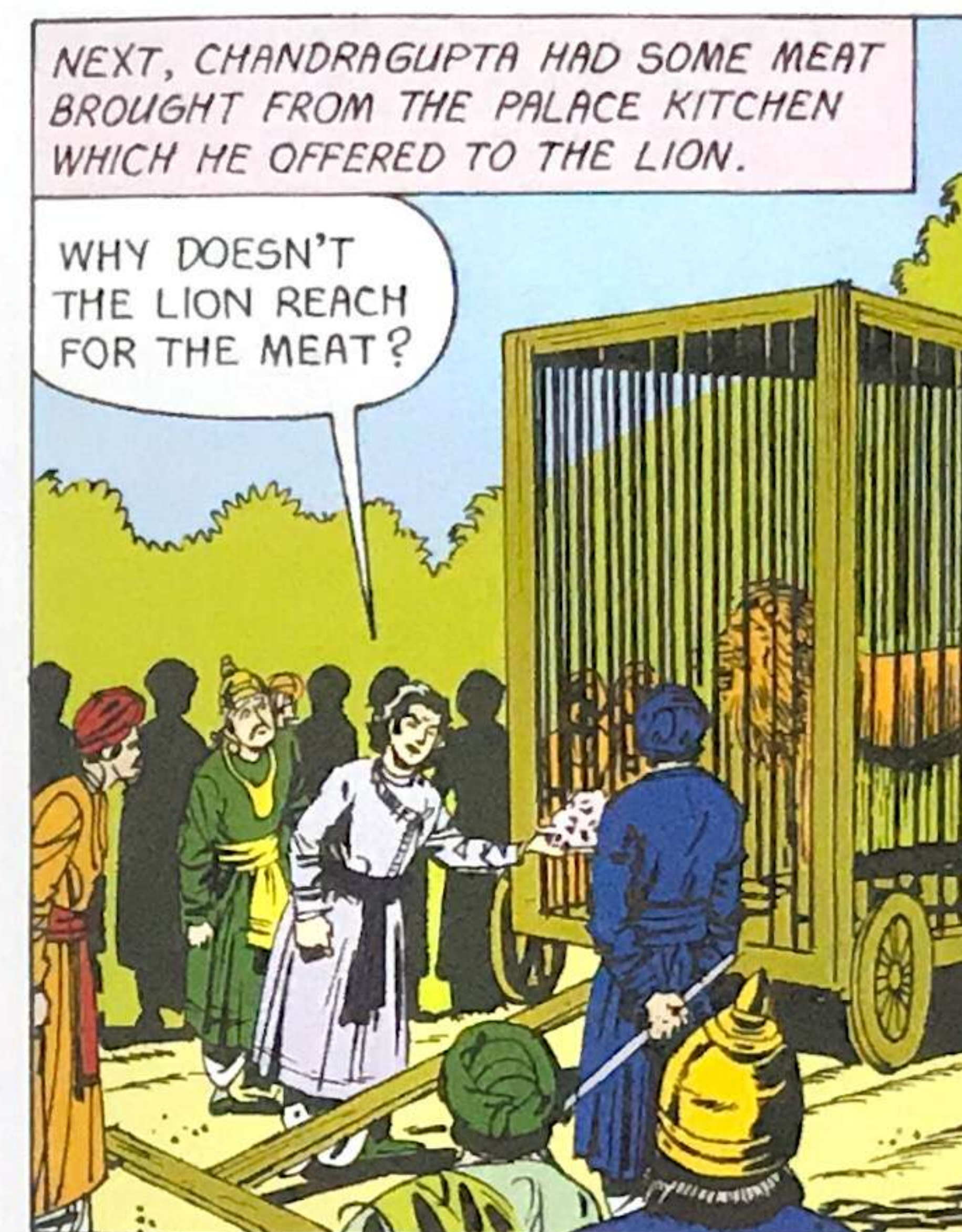


WHEN THE GUARD BRANDISHES THE STAFF, THE LION JUMPS IN RAGE. STILL...



CHANDRAGUPTA HAD A BLINDFOLDED ELEPHANT BROUGHT AND PARADED BEFORE THE LION.

STRANGE! THE LION DOES NOT REACT. COULD IT BE A FAKE ONE?



NEXT, CHANDRAGUPTA HAD SOME MEAT BROUGHT FROM THE PALACE KITCHEN WHICH HE OFFERED TO THE LION.

WHY DOESN'T THE LION REACH FOR THE MEAT?



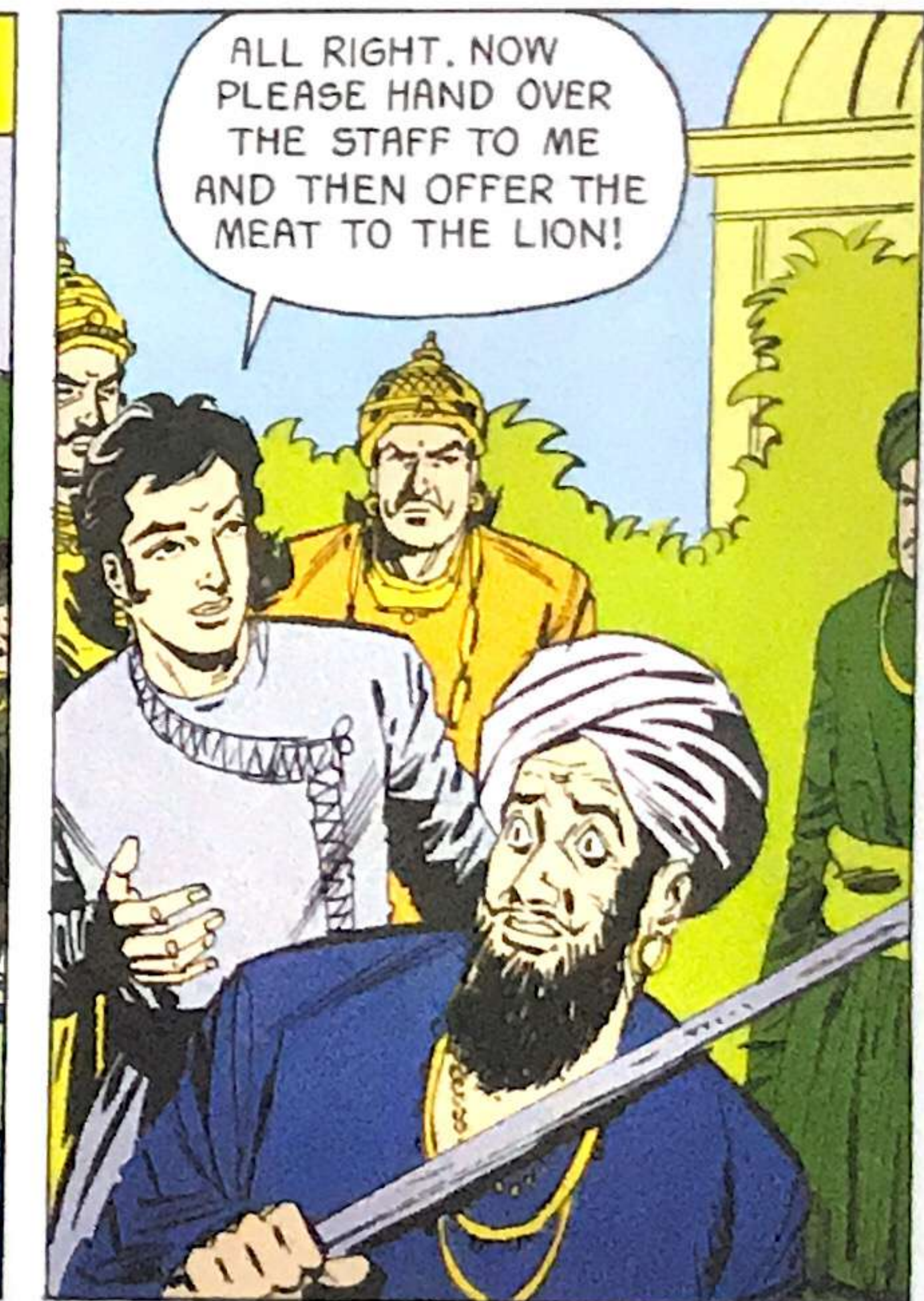
IT IS TRAINED NOT TO ACCEPT FOOD FROM STRANGERS. LET ME OFFER THE MEAT.



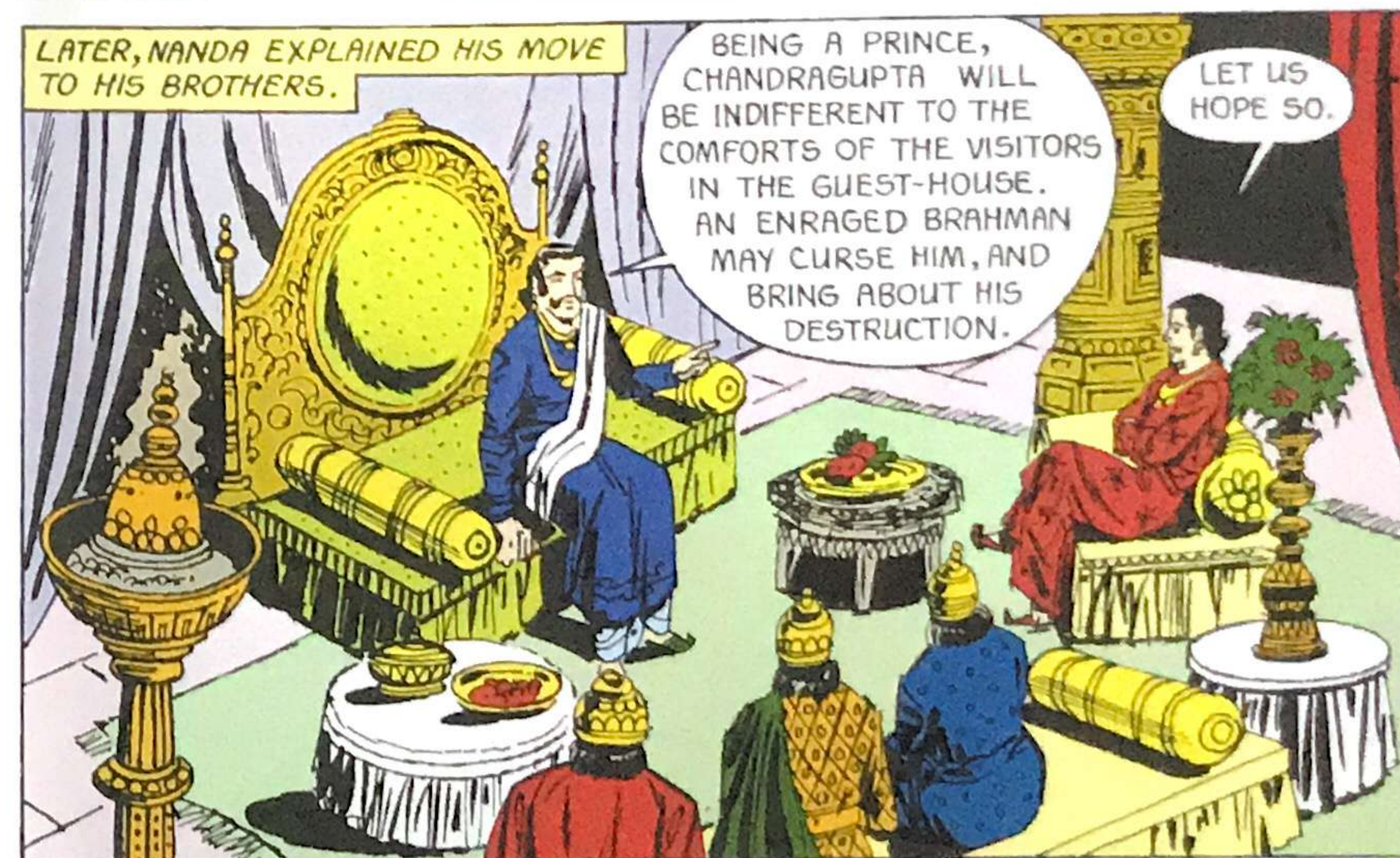
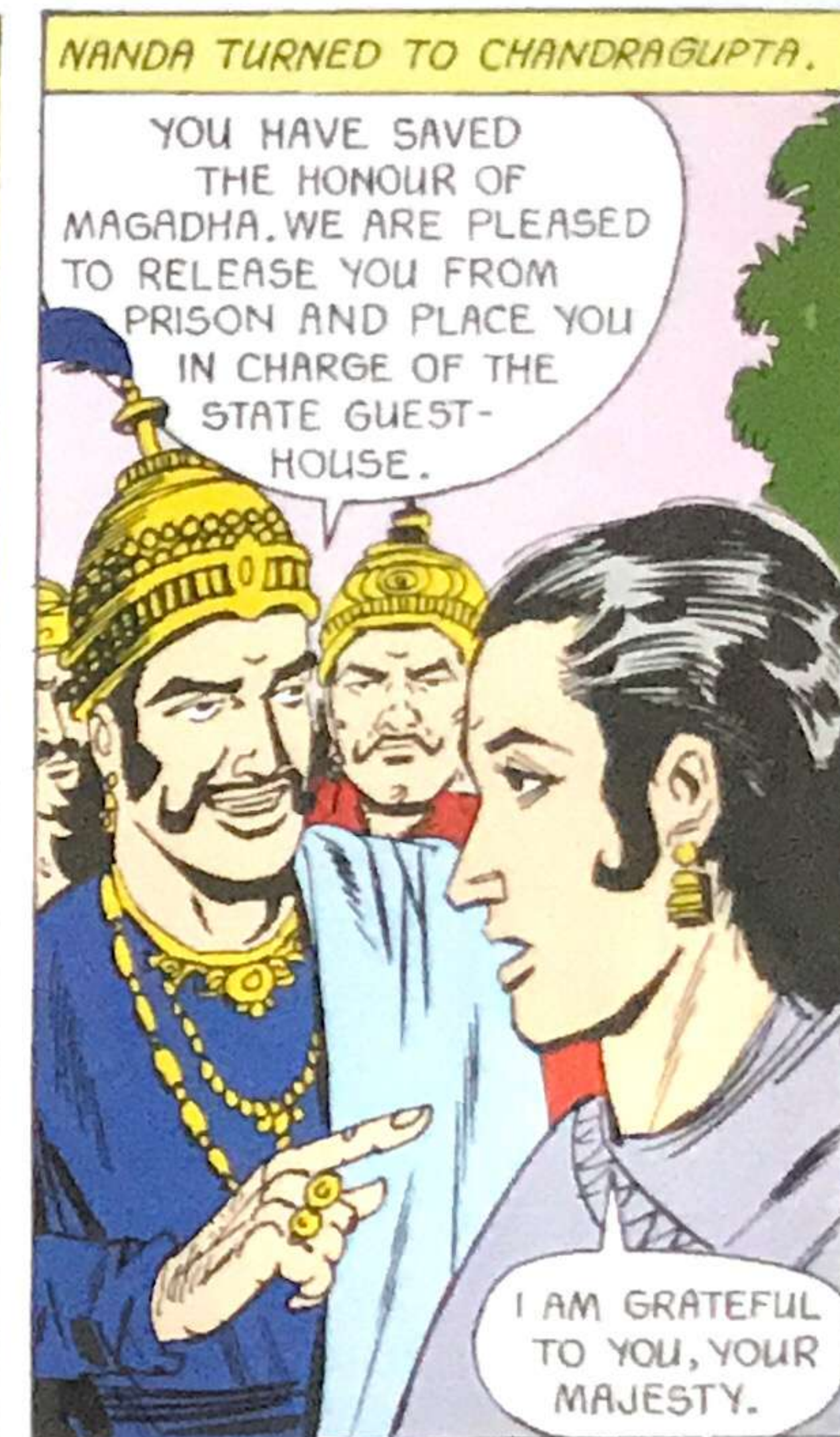
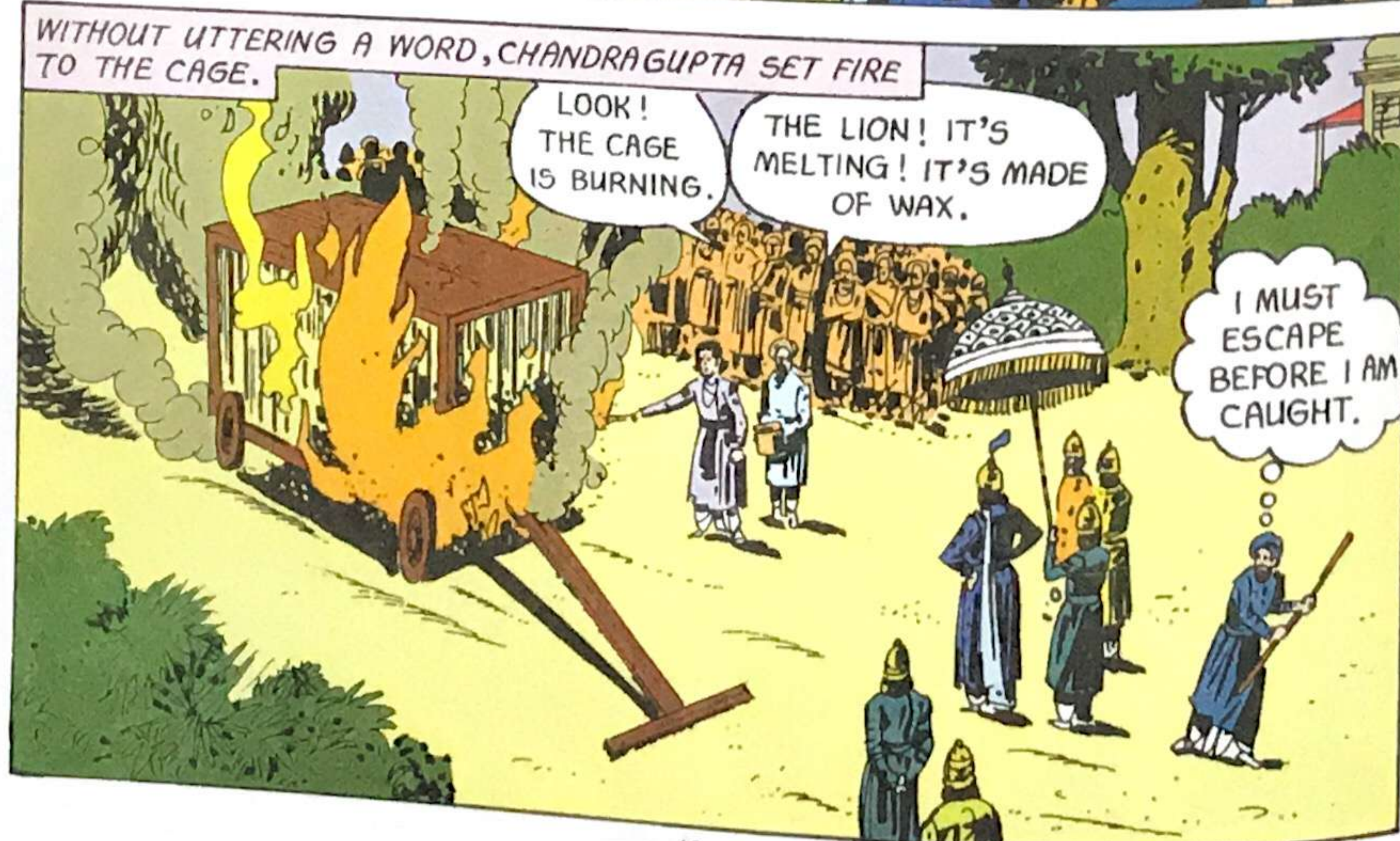
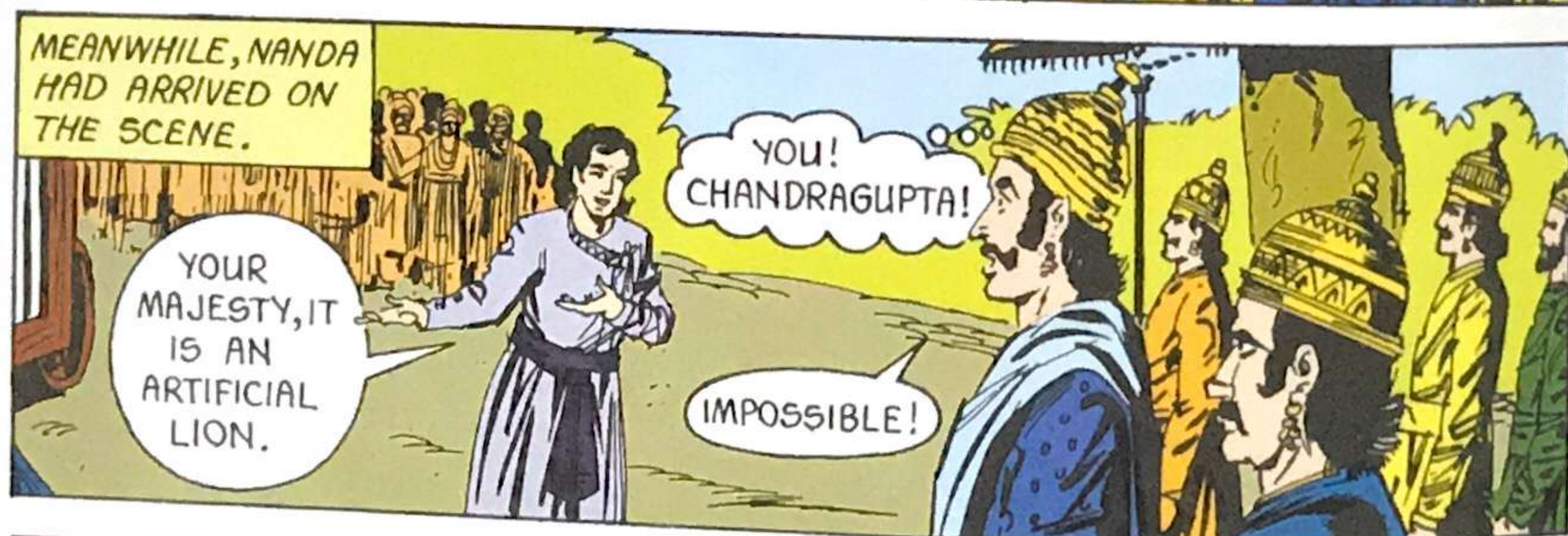
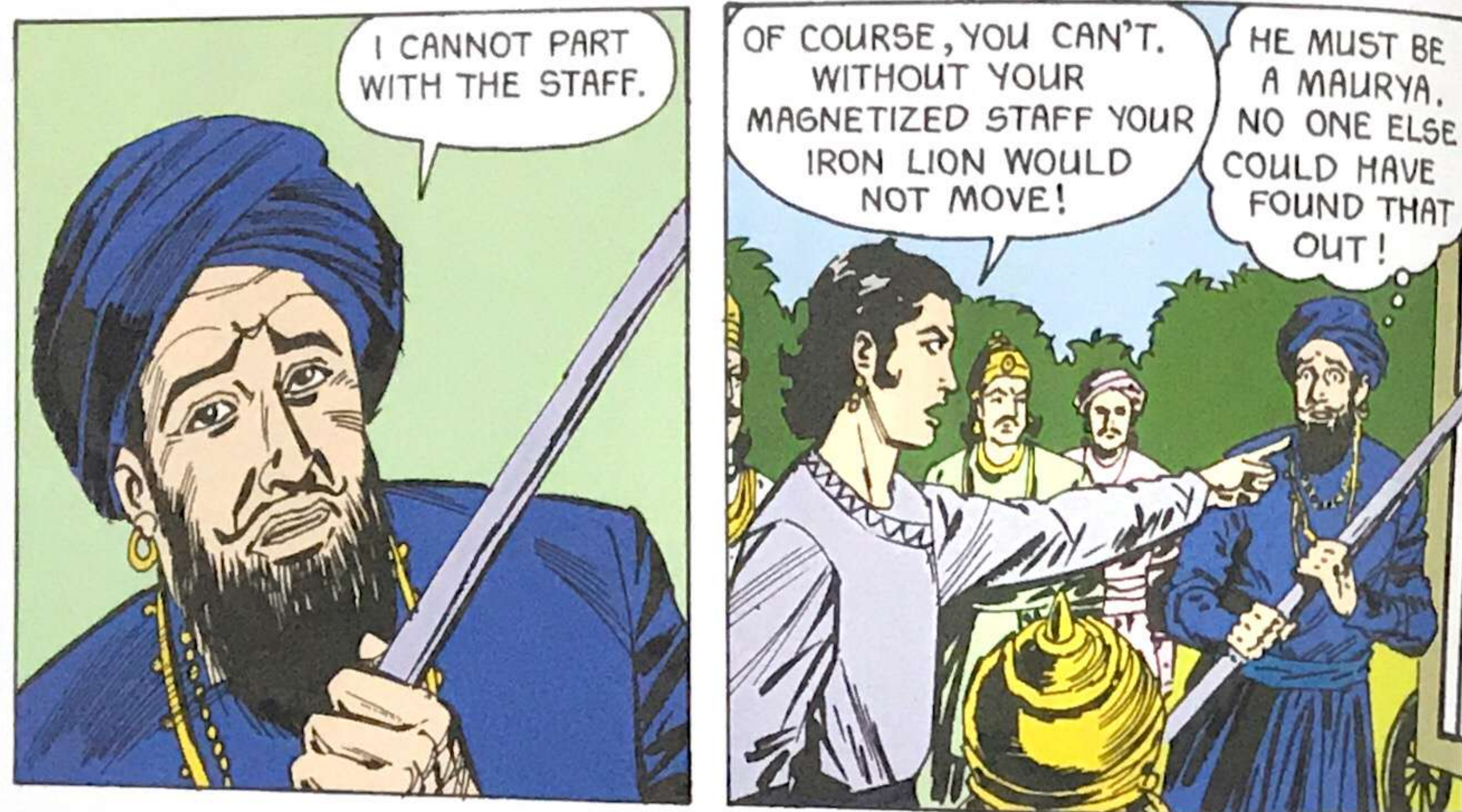
WHEN THE GUARD OFFERED THE MEAT, THE LION RUSHED FORWARD.

SEE?

INDEED I DO!



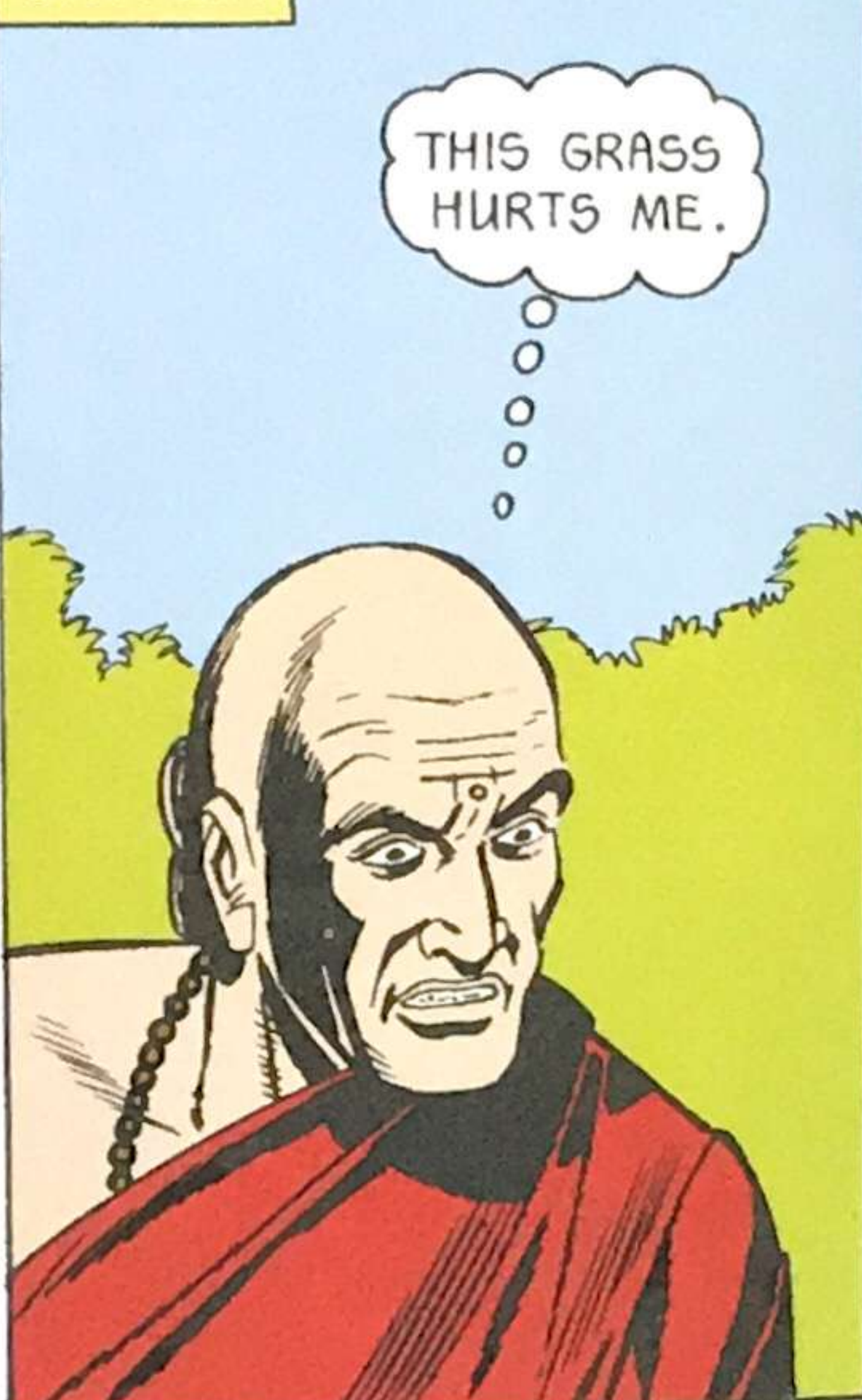
ALL RIGHT. NOW PLEASE HAND OVER THE STAFF TO ME AND THEN OFFER THE MEAT TO THE LION!



BUT NANDA WAS WRONG. CHANDRAGUPTA TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIS GUESTS. ONE AFTERNOON, HE SAW A BRAHMAN APPROACHING THE GUEST-HOUSE.

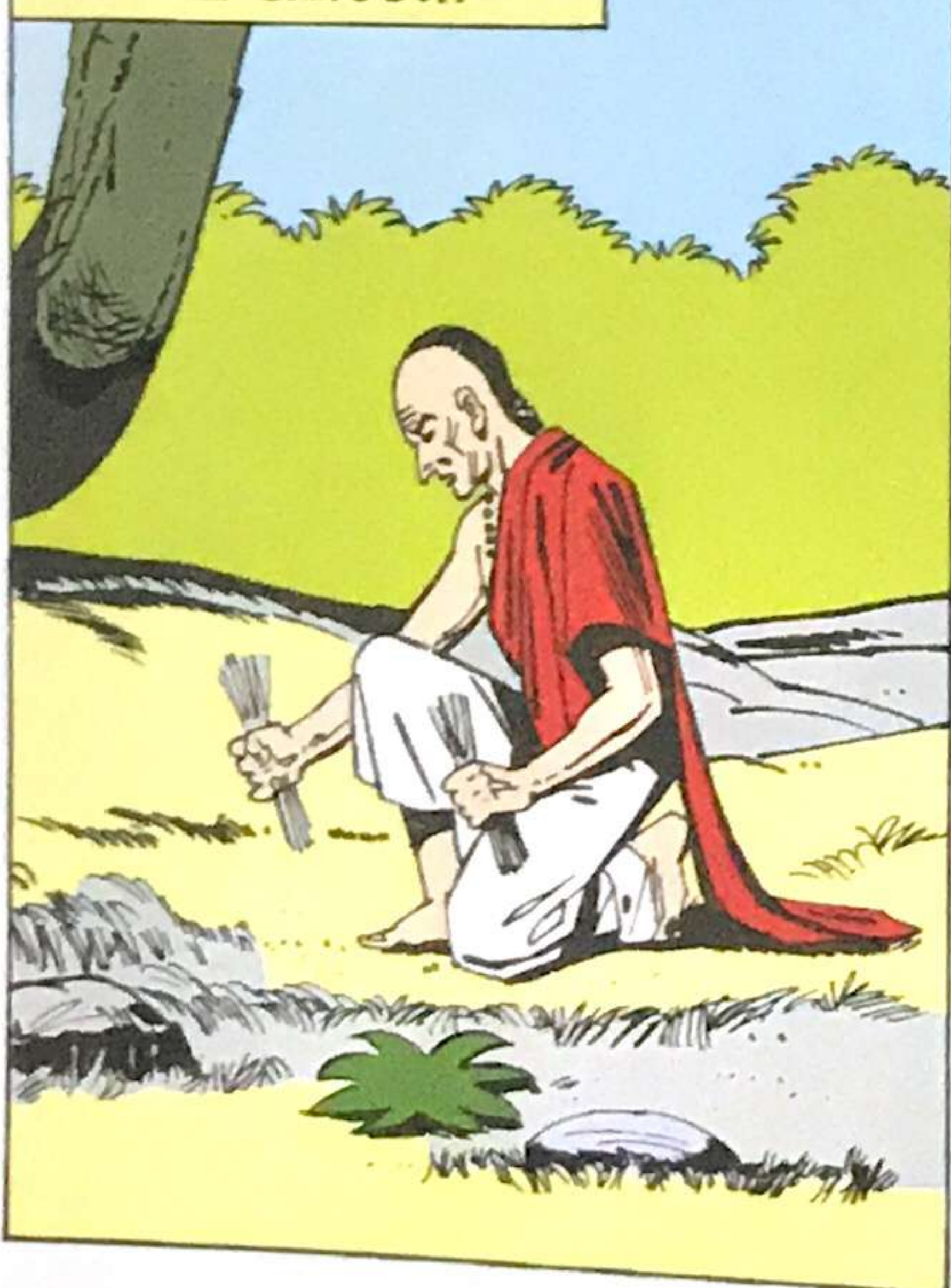


SUDDENLY, THE BRAHMAN STOPPED.



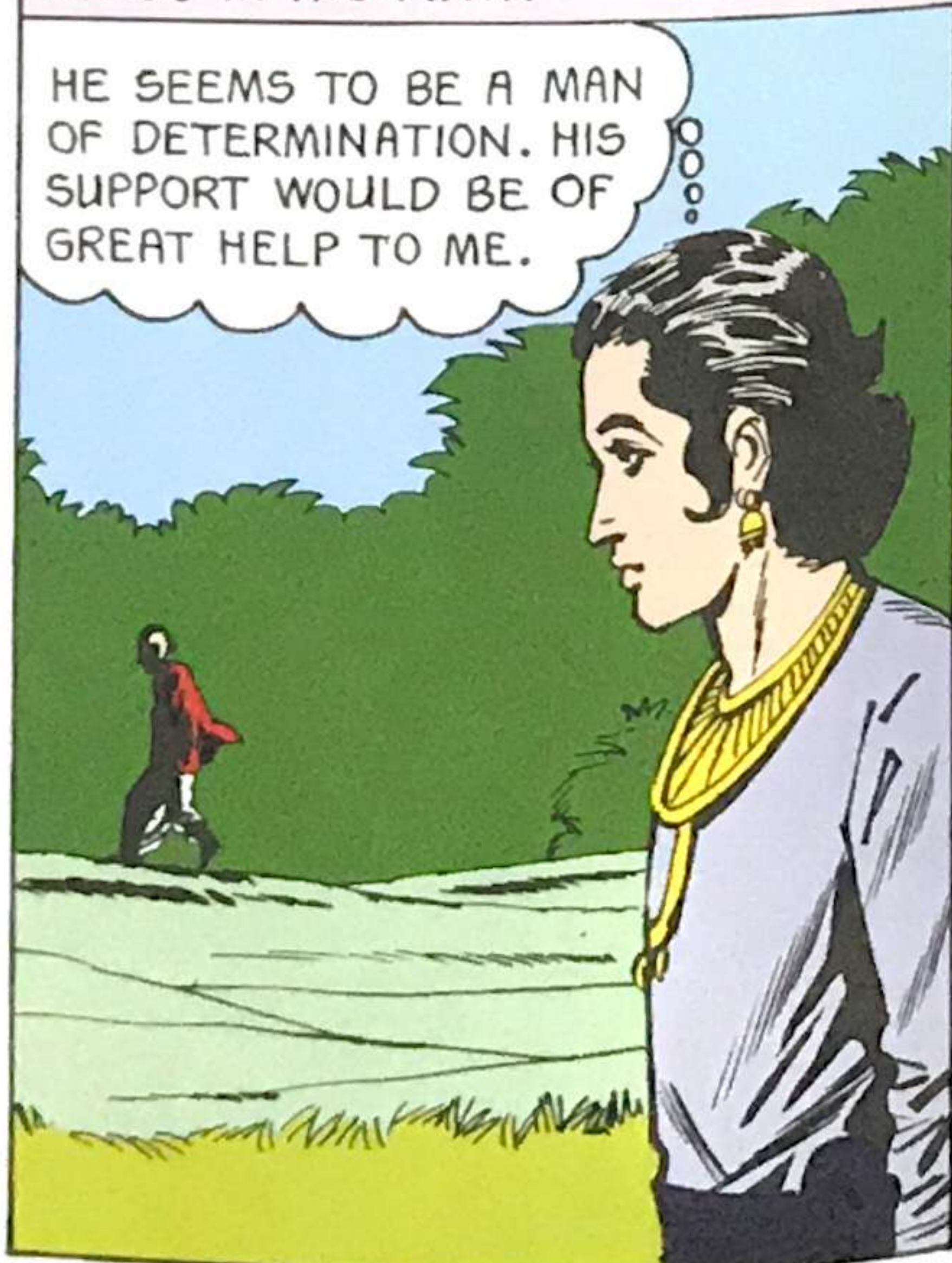
THIS GRASS HURTS ME.

HE SAT DOWN TO PULL OUT THE GRASS...



...AND RESUMED HIS JOURNEY ONLY AFTER HE HAD UPROOTED ALL THE GRASS IN HIS PATH.

HE SEEMS TO BE A MAN OF DETERMINATION. HIS SUPPORT WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO ME.



HE RAN UP TO THE BRAHMAN.

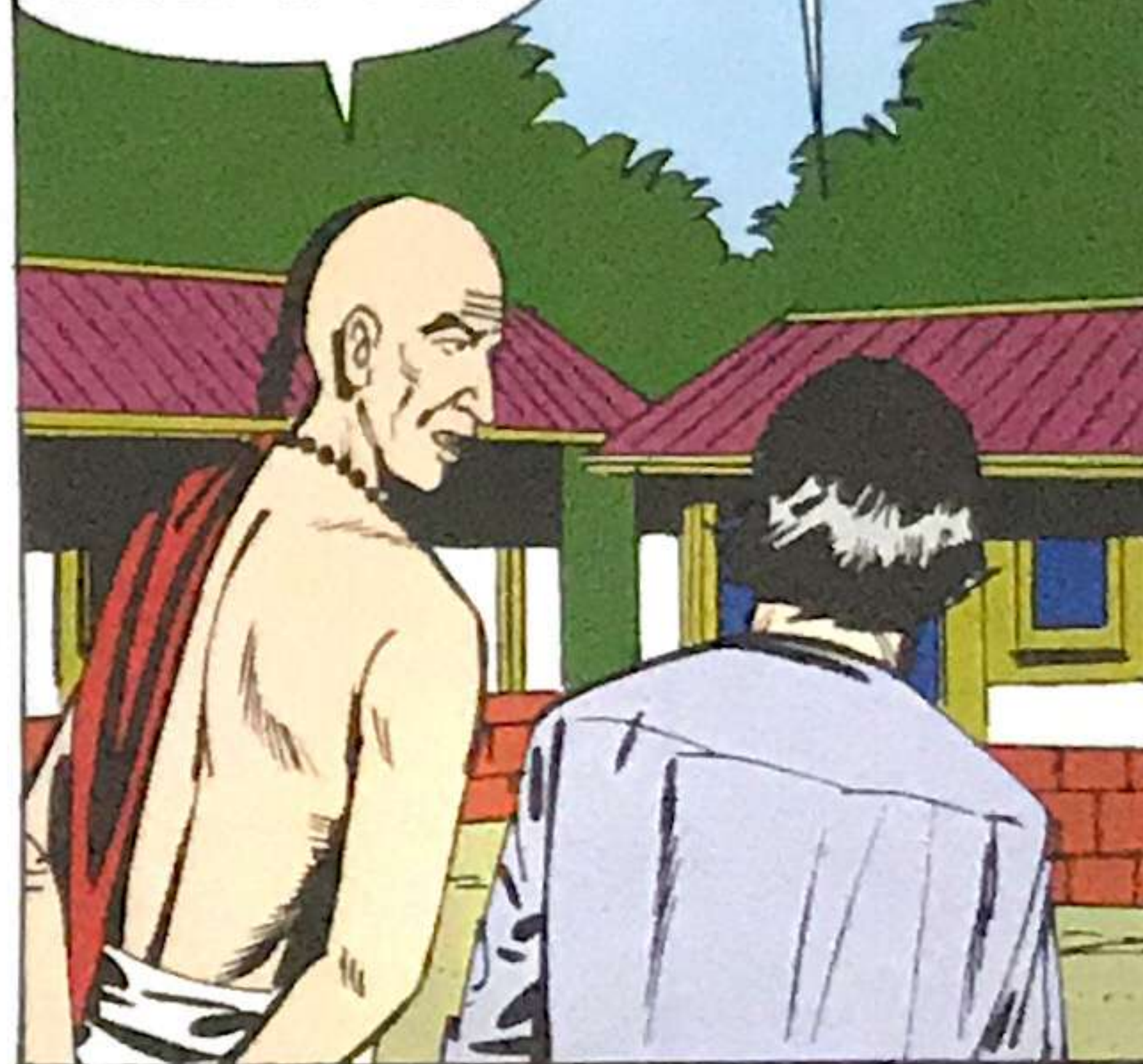
REVERED ONE, PLEASE HAVE DINNER AT THE GUEST-HOUSE BEFORE YOU PROCEED.

IT IS VERY KIND OF YOU TO INVITE ME.



YOUNG MAN, YOU LOOK NOBLE. HOW DID YOU COME TO OCCUPY SUCH A LOWLY OFFICE?

IT IS A LONG STORY, SIR.



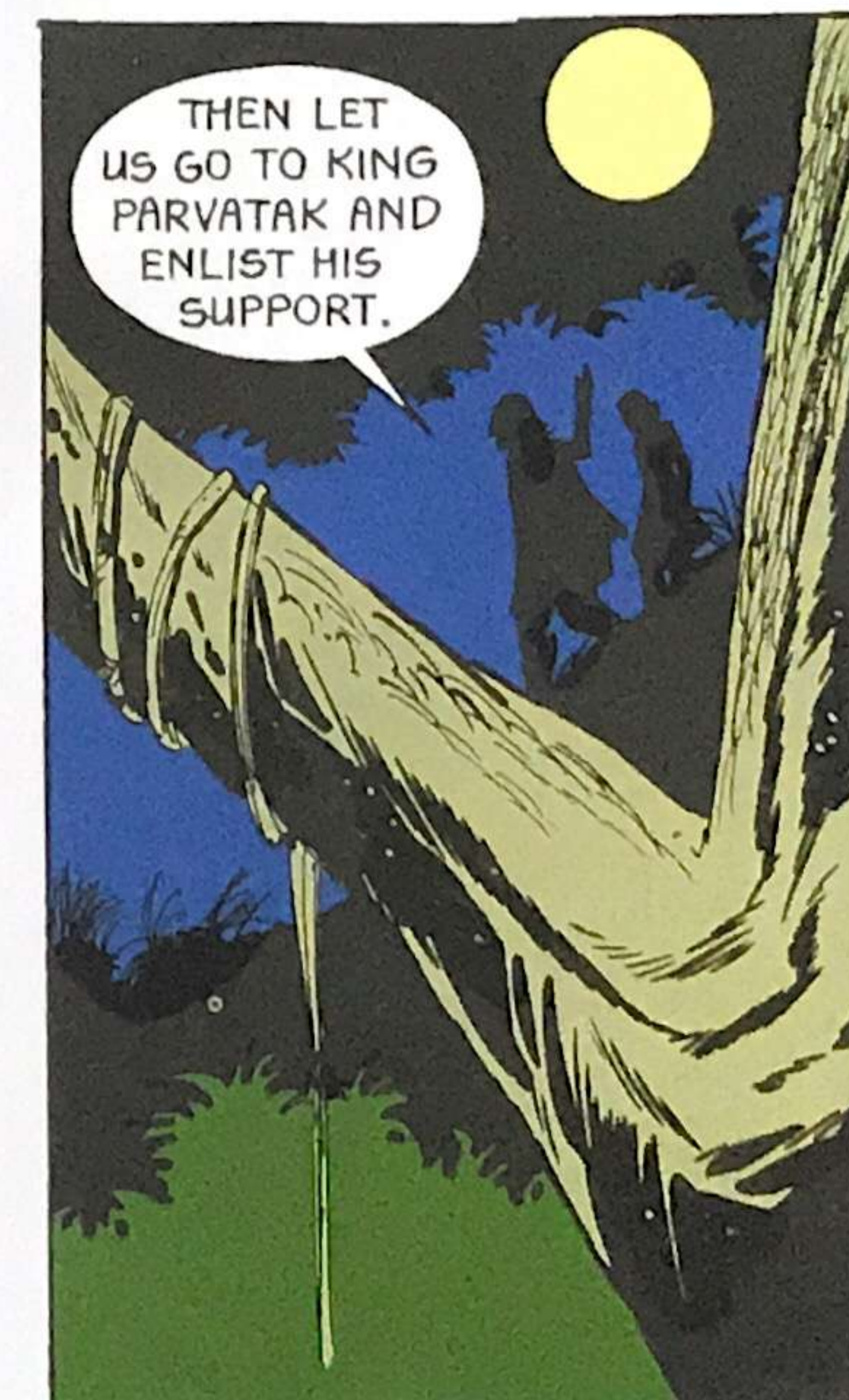
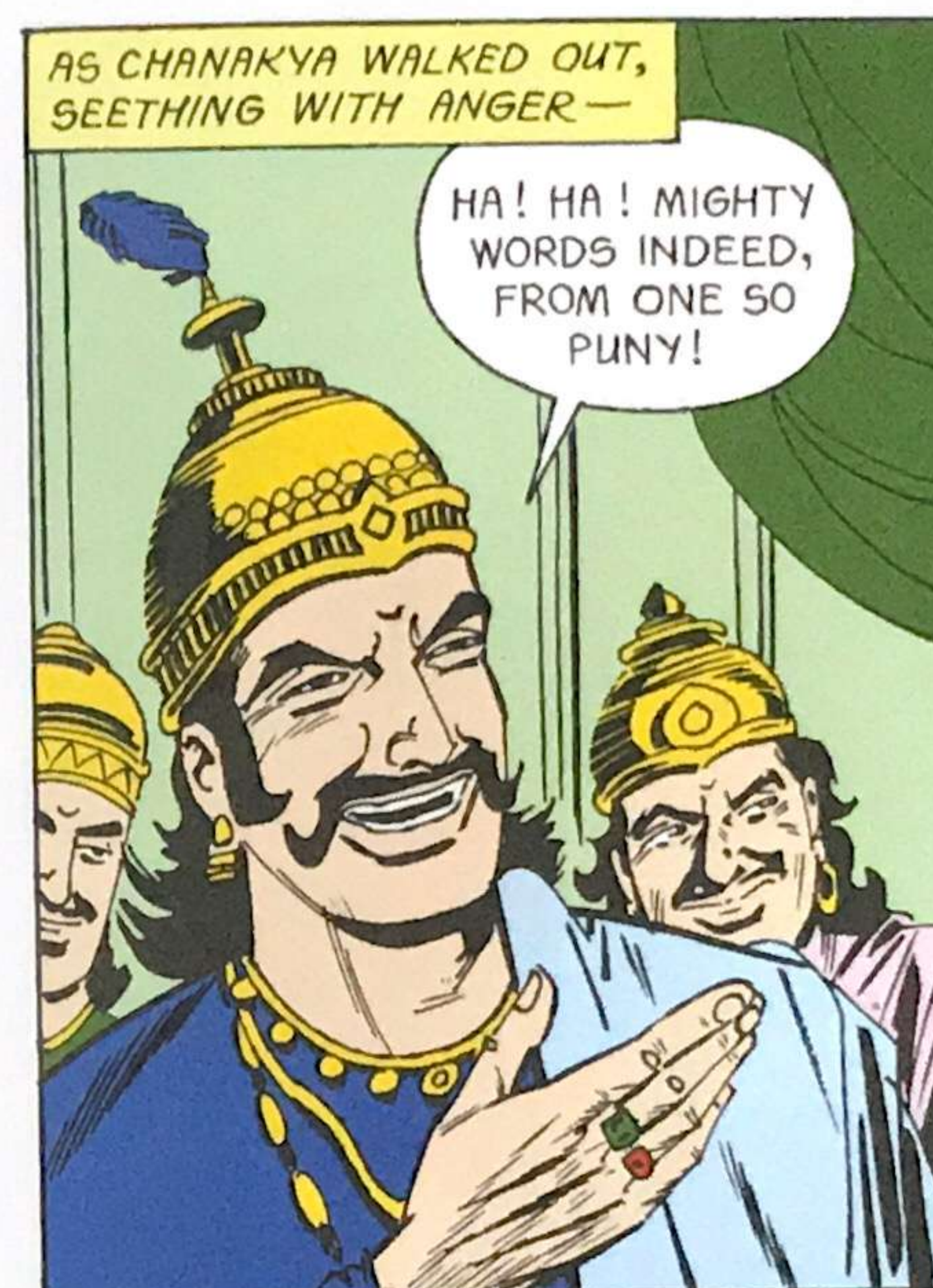
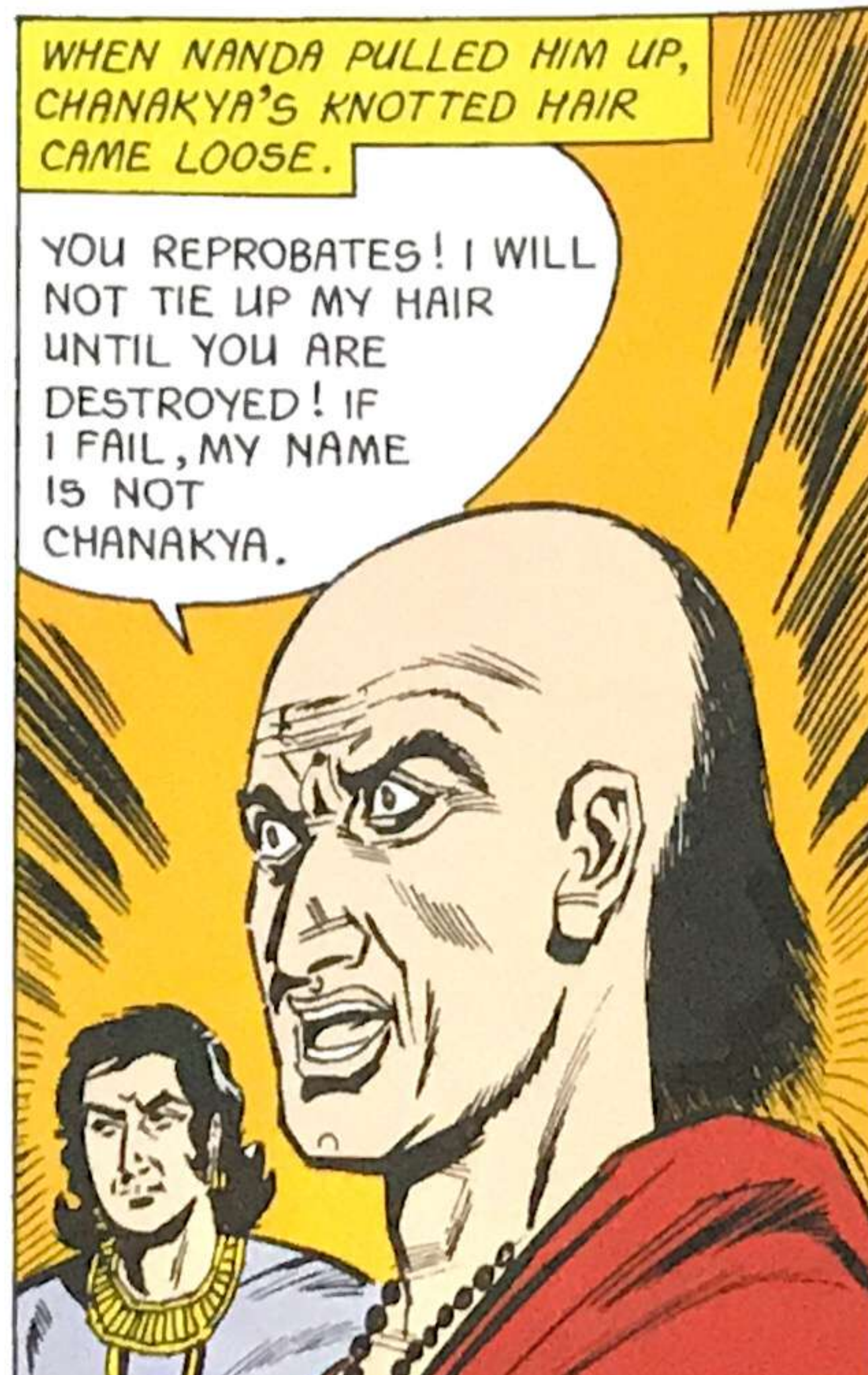
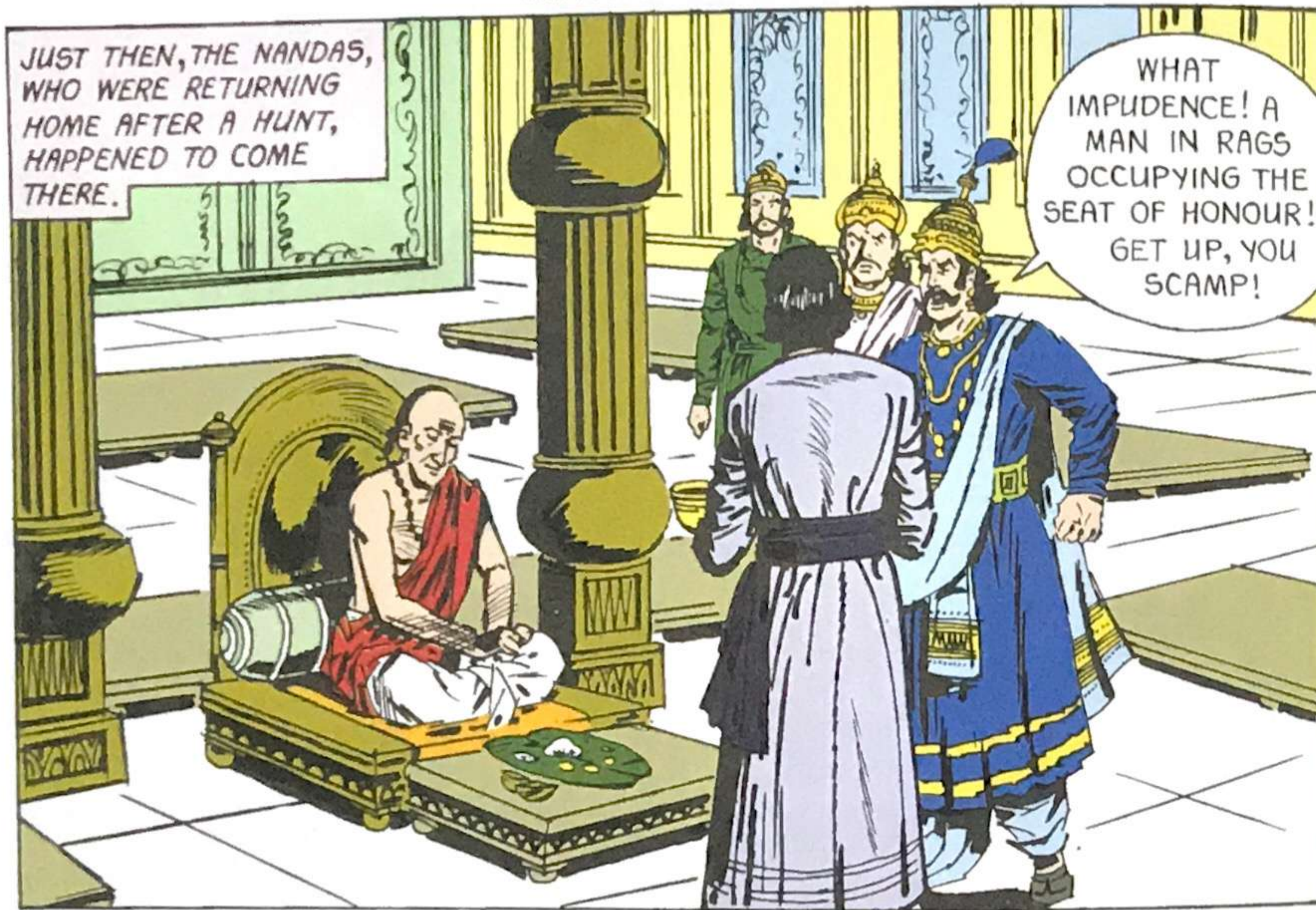
WHEN CHANDRAGUPTA TOLD HIM ALL—

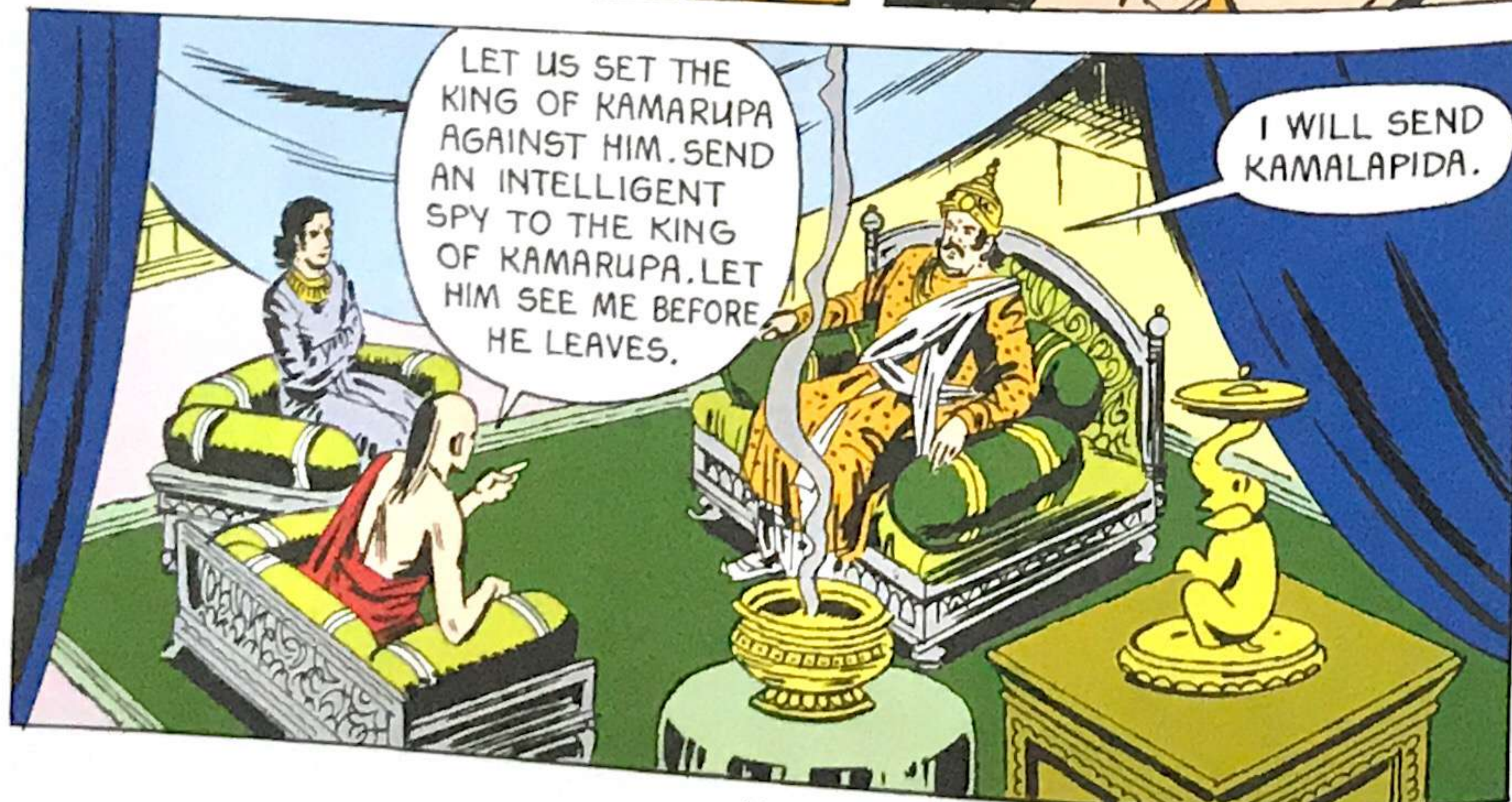
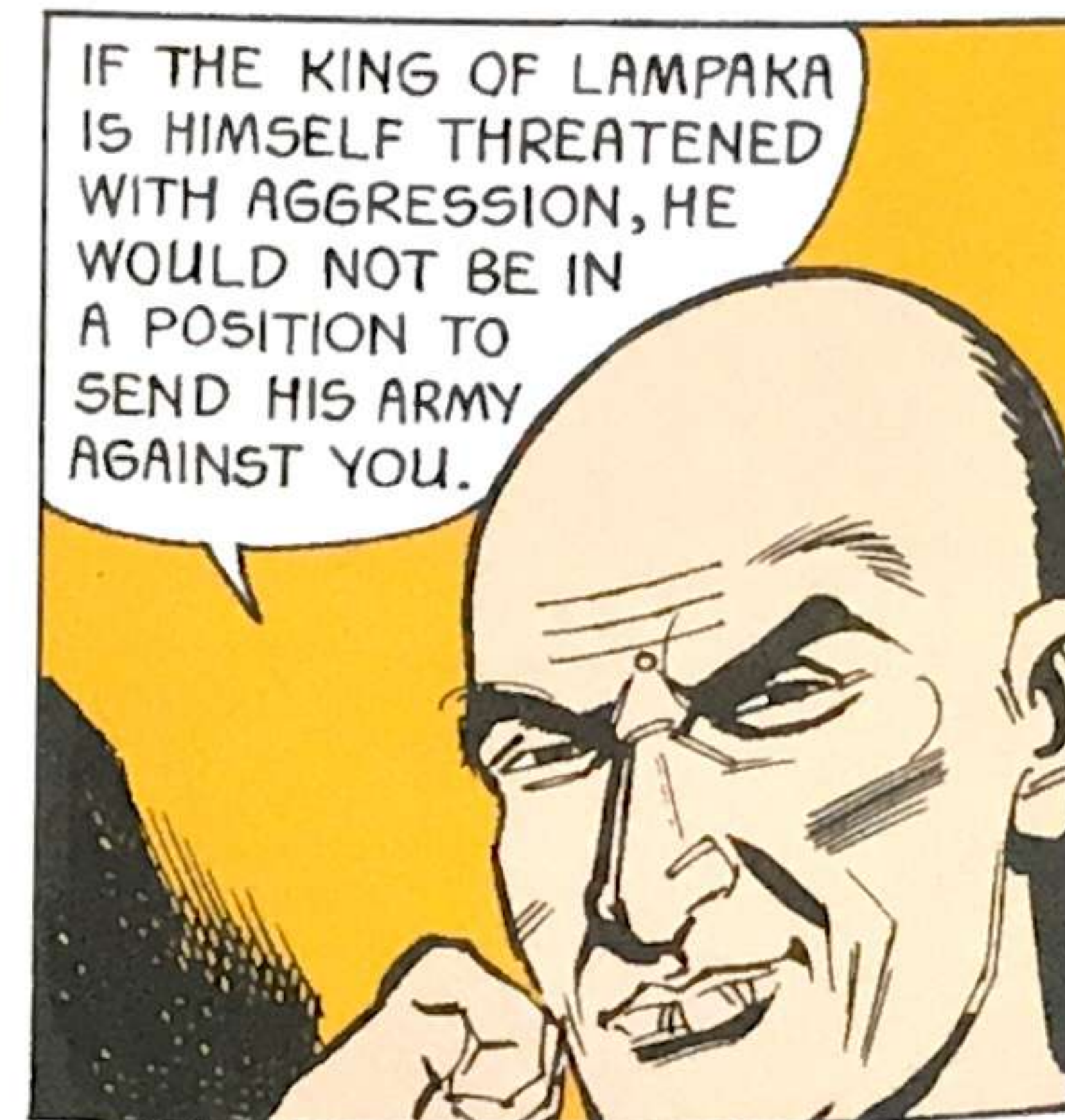
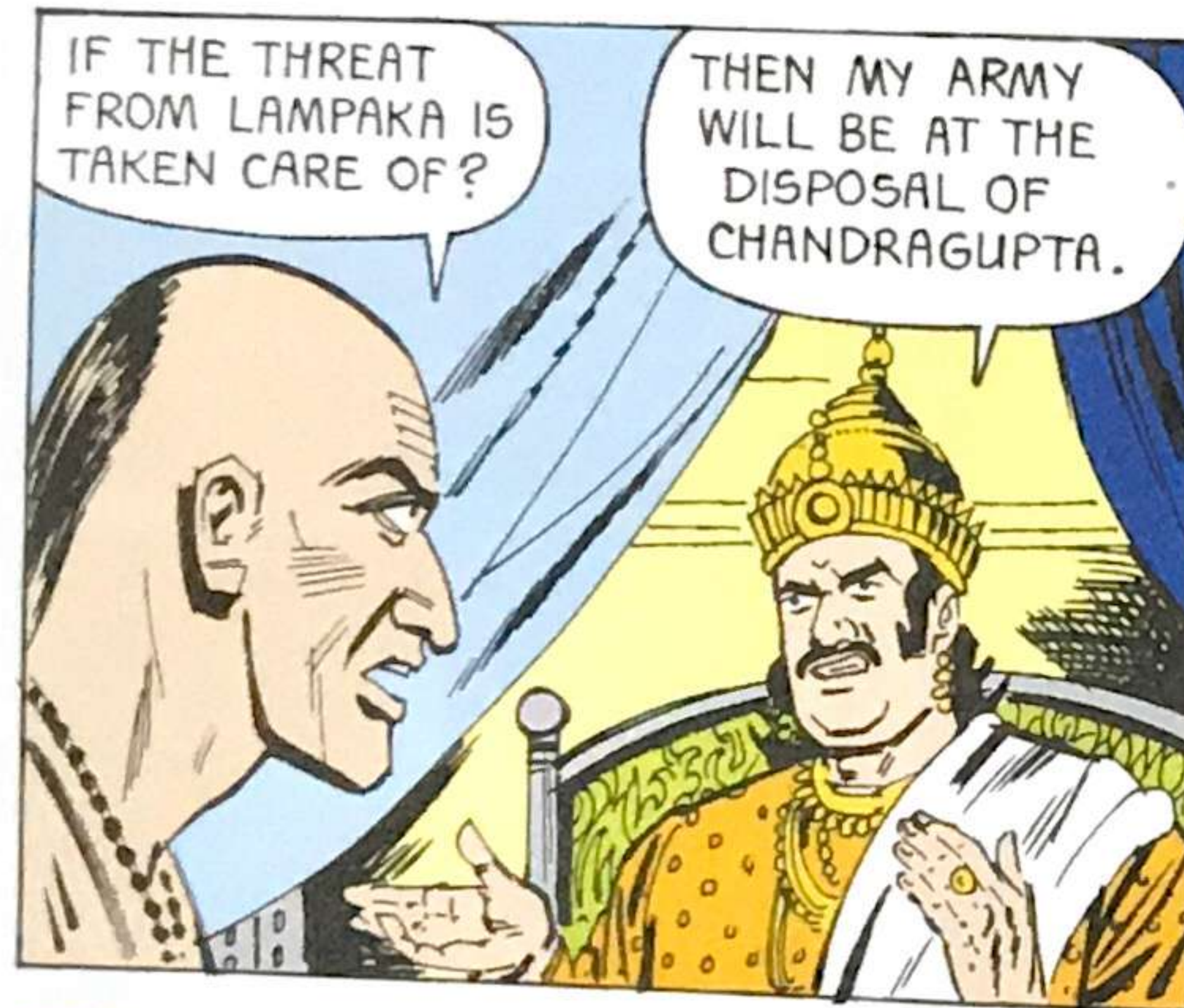
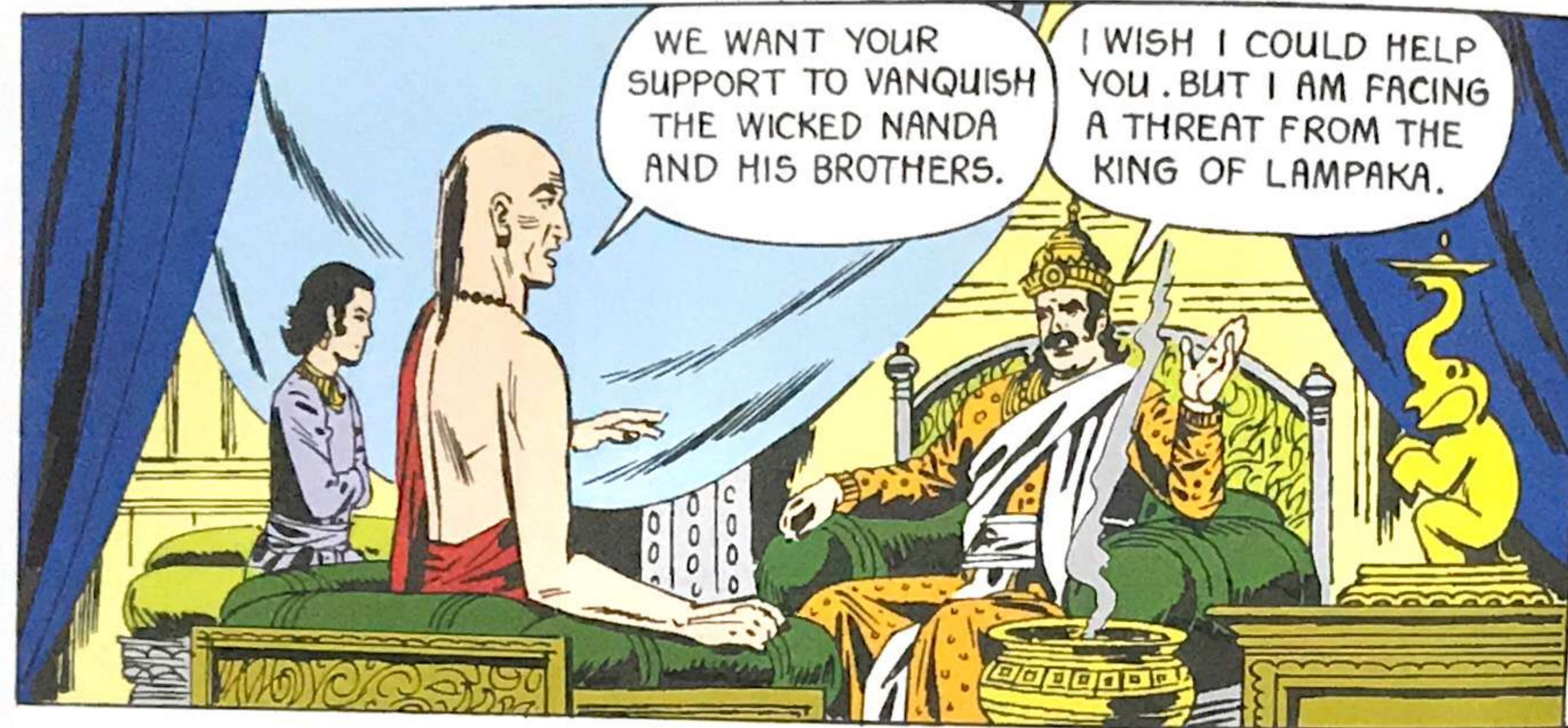


DON'T WORRY, CHANDRAGUPTA. I, CHANAKYA, WILL HELP YOU AVENGE THE DEATH OF YOUR FATHER AND BROTHERS.

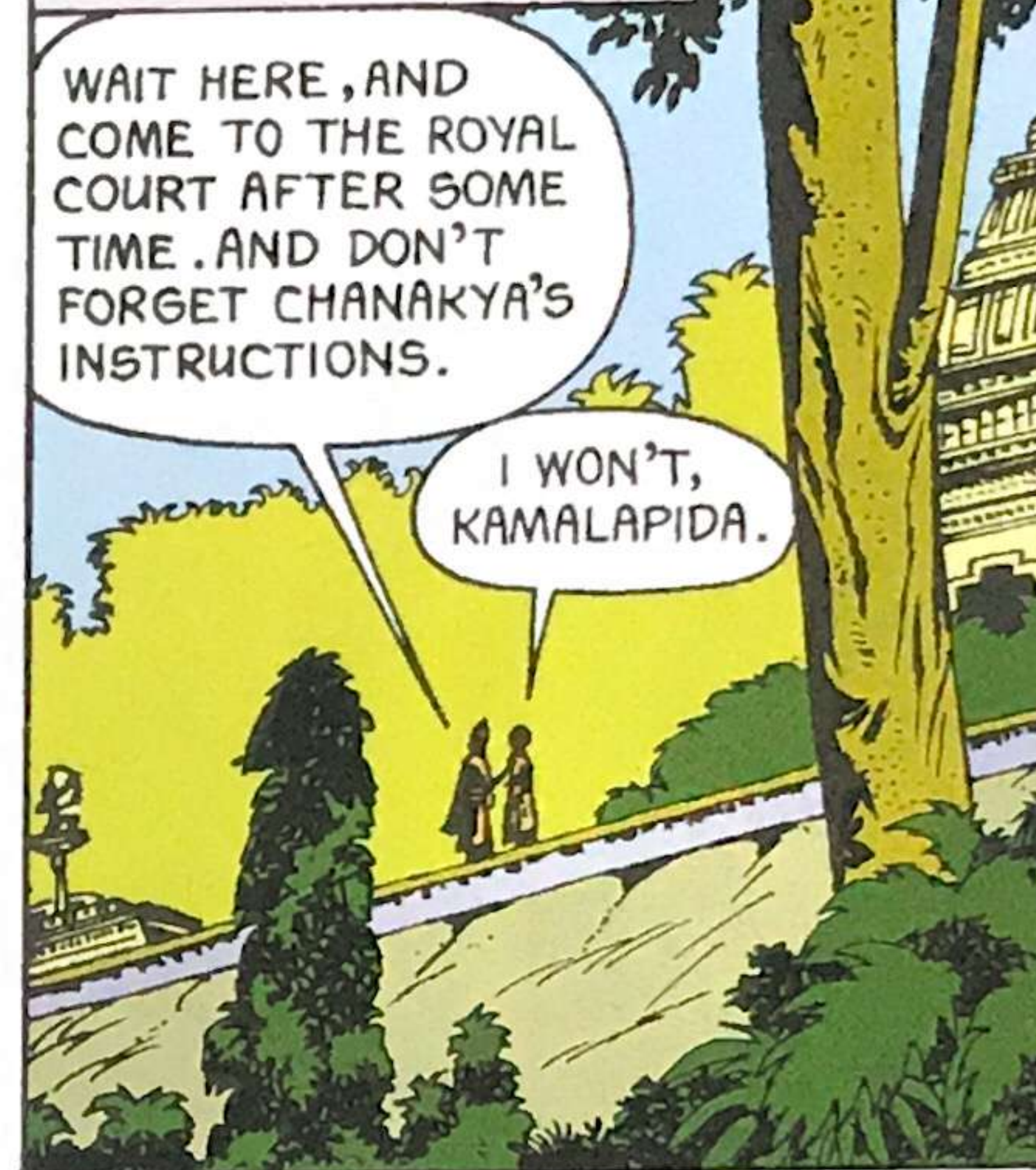
AT THE GUEST-HOUSE, CHANDRAGUPTA OFFERED A SEAT OF HONOUR TO CHANAKYA AND SERVED HIM PERSONALLY.





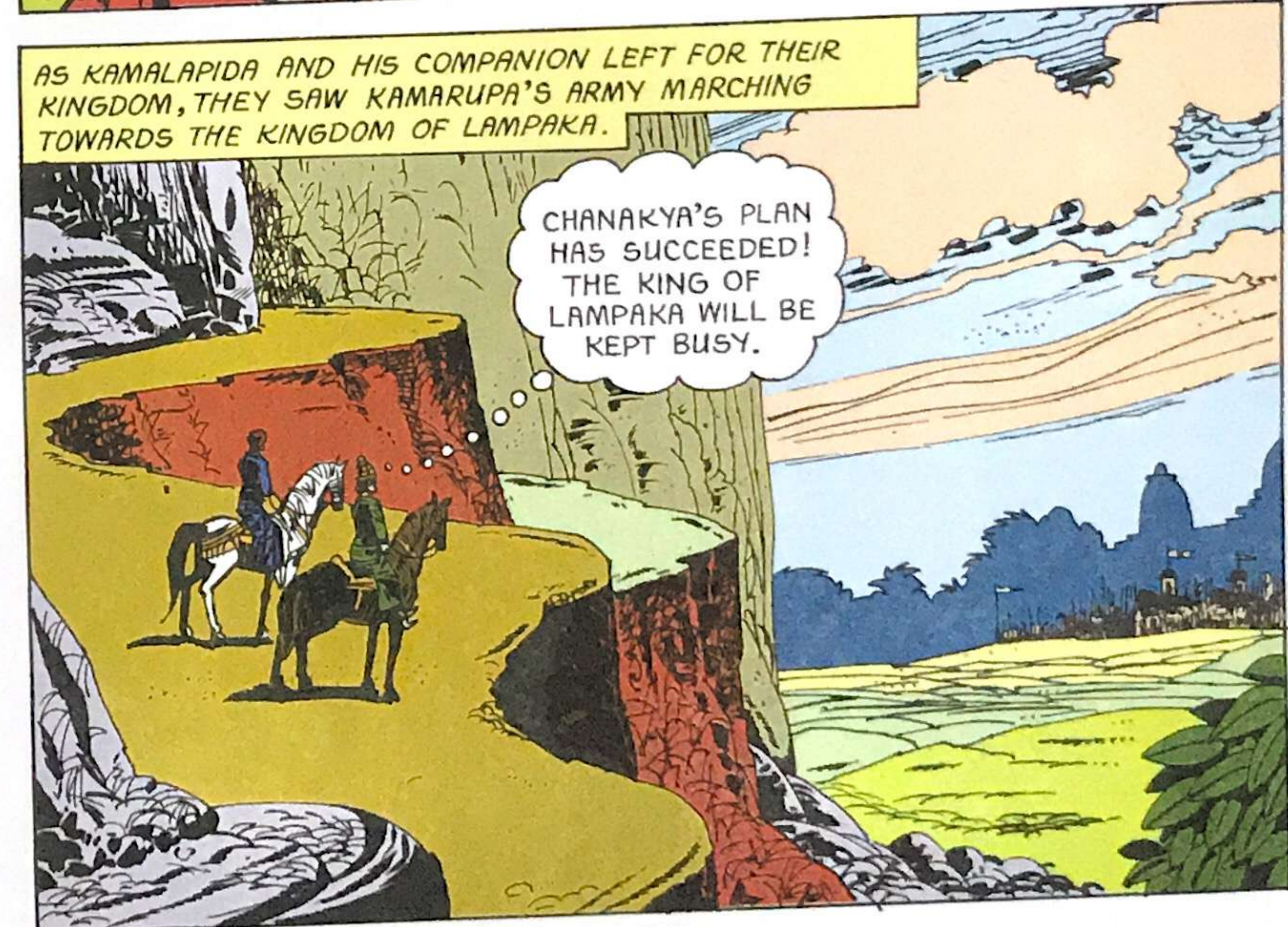
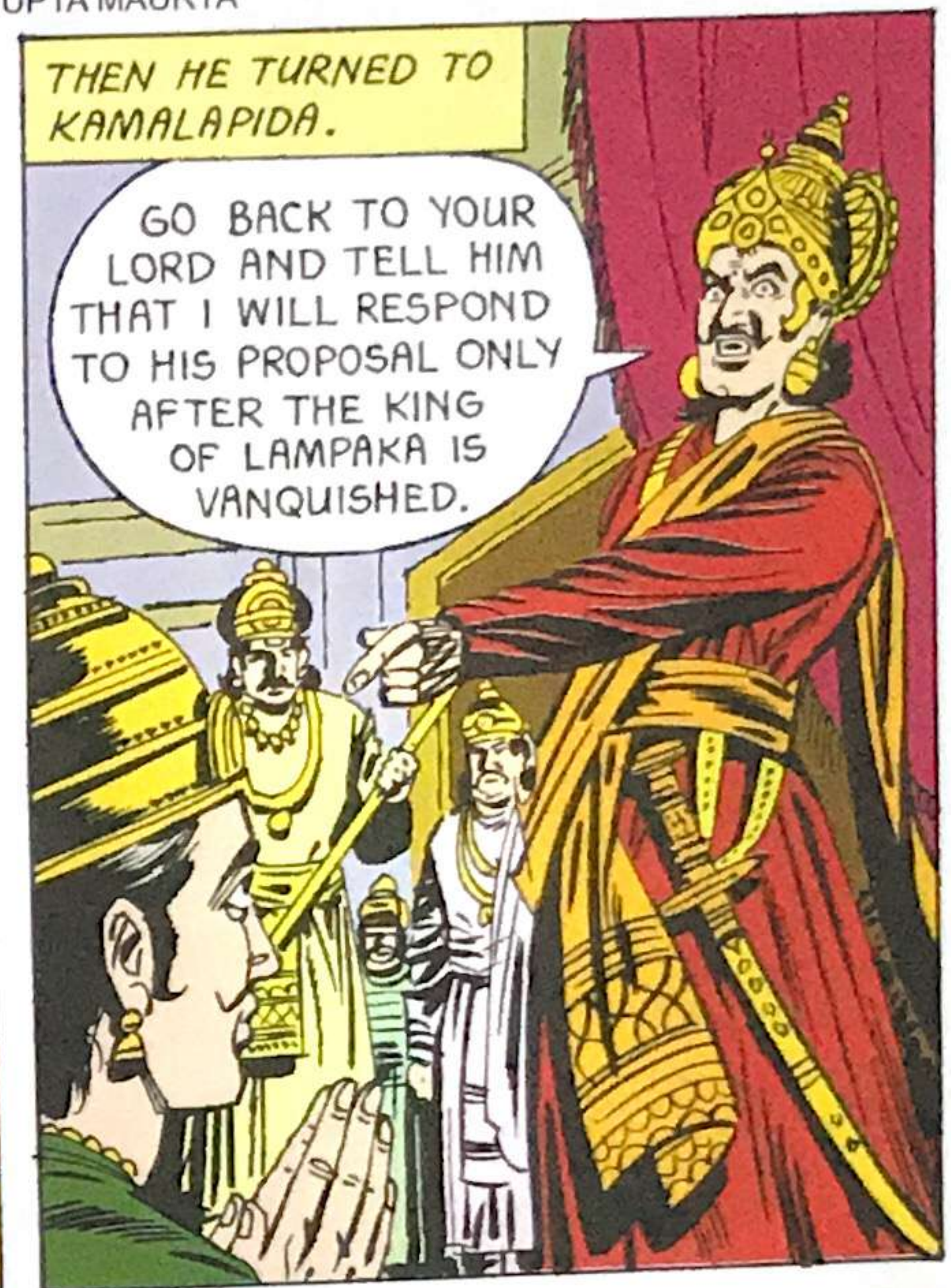
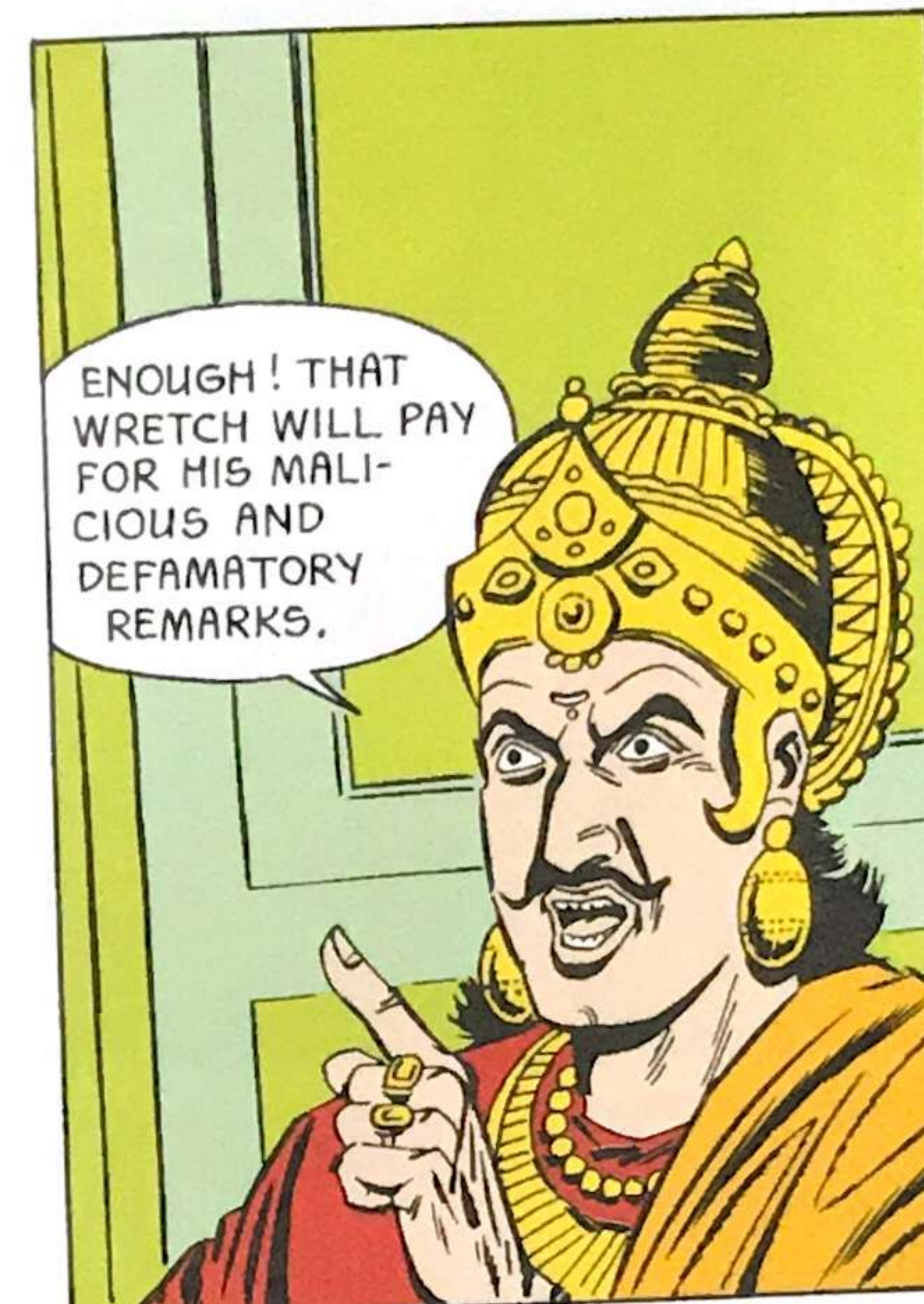
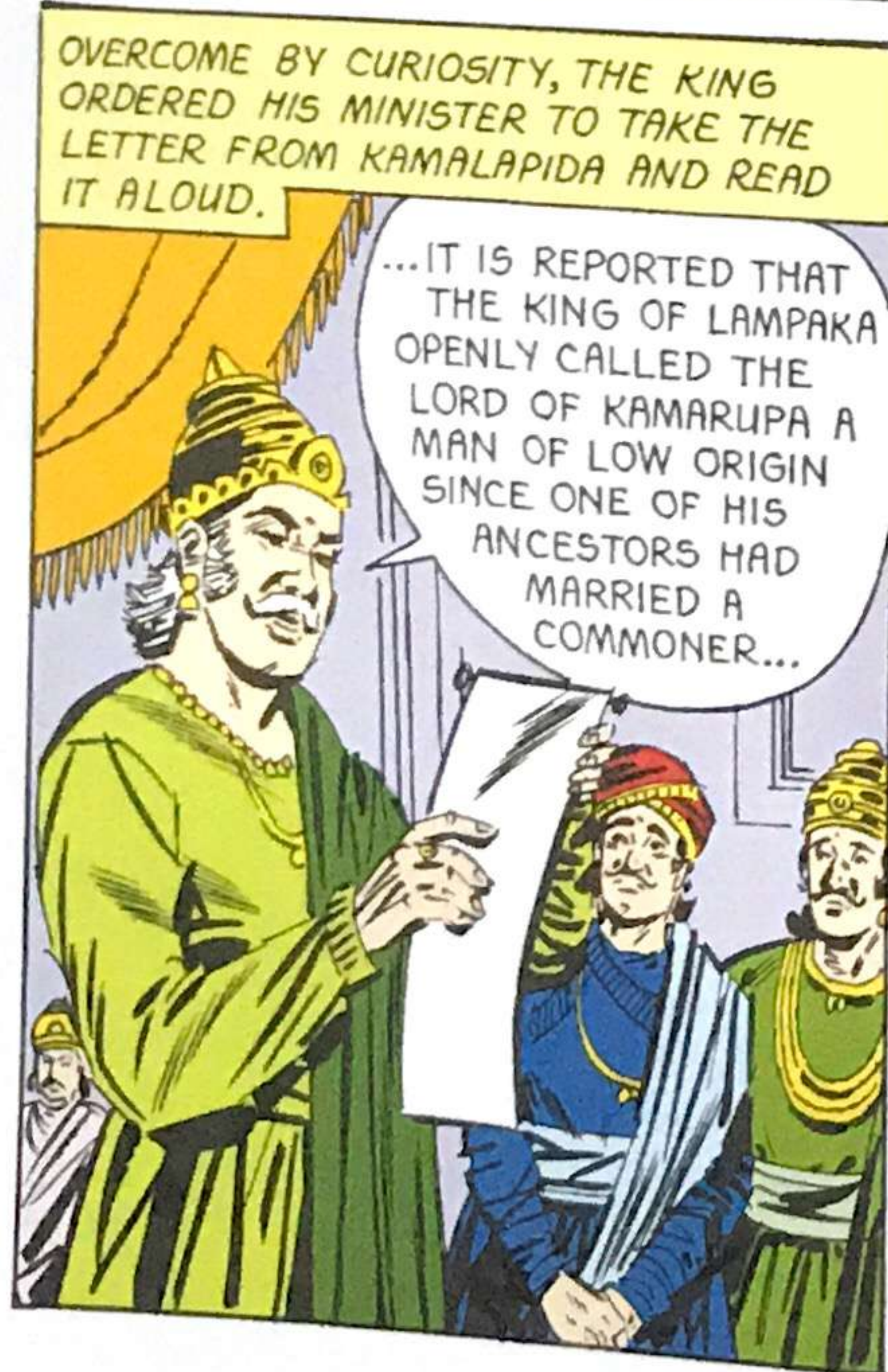


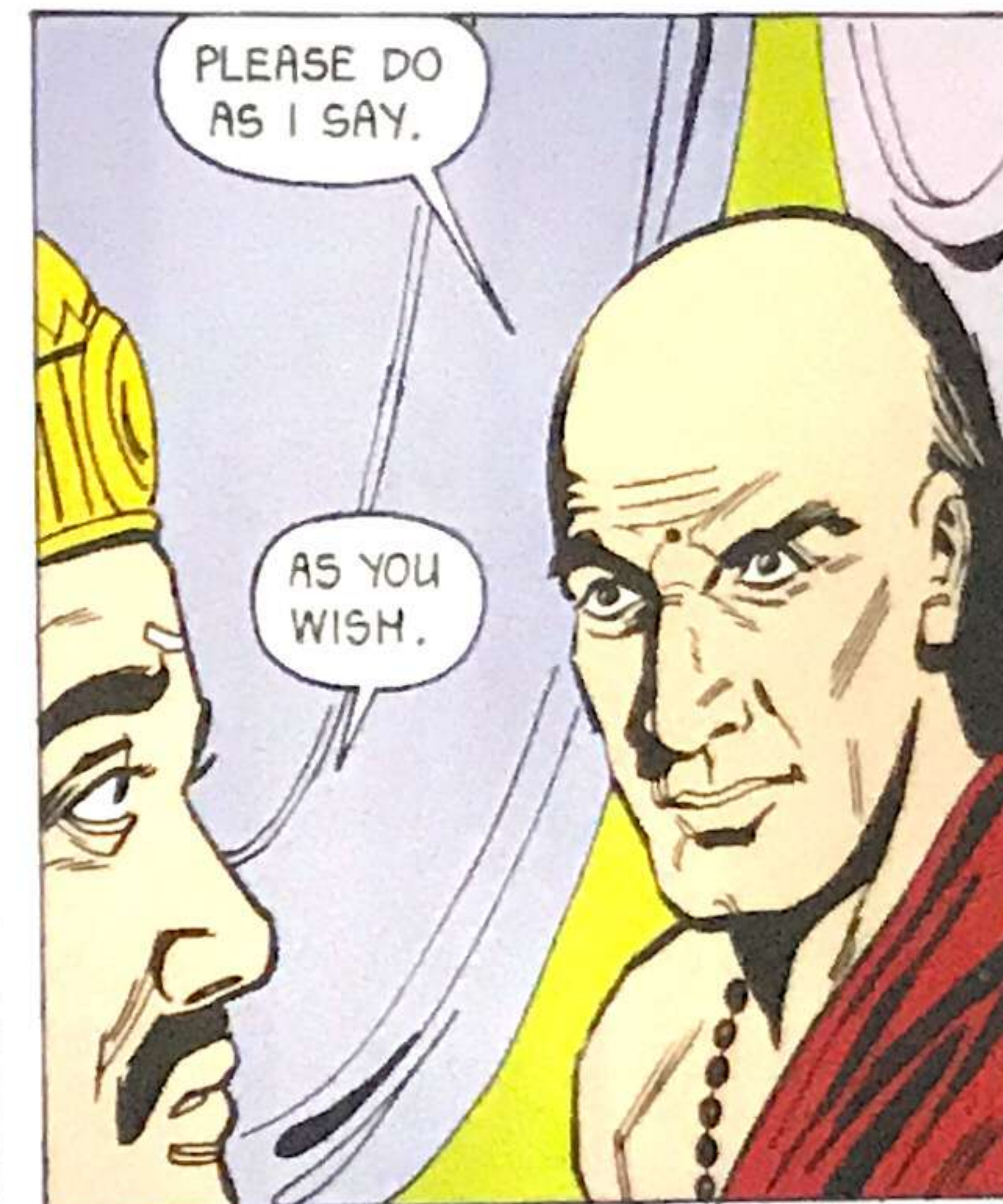
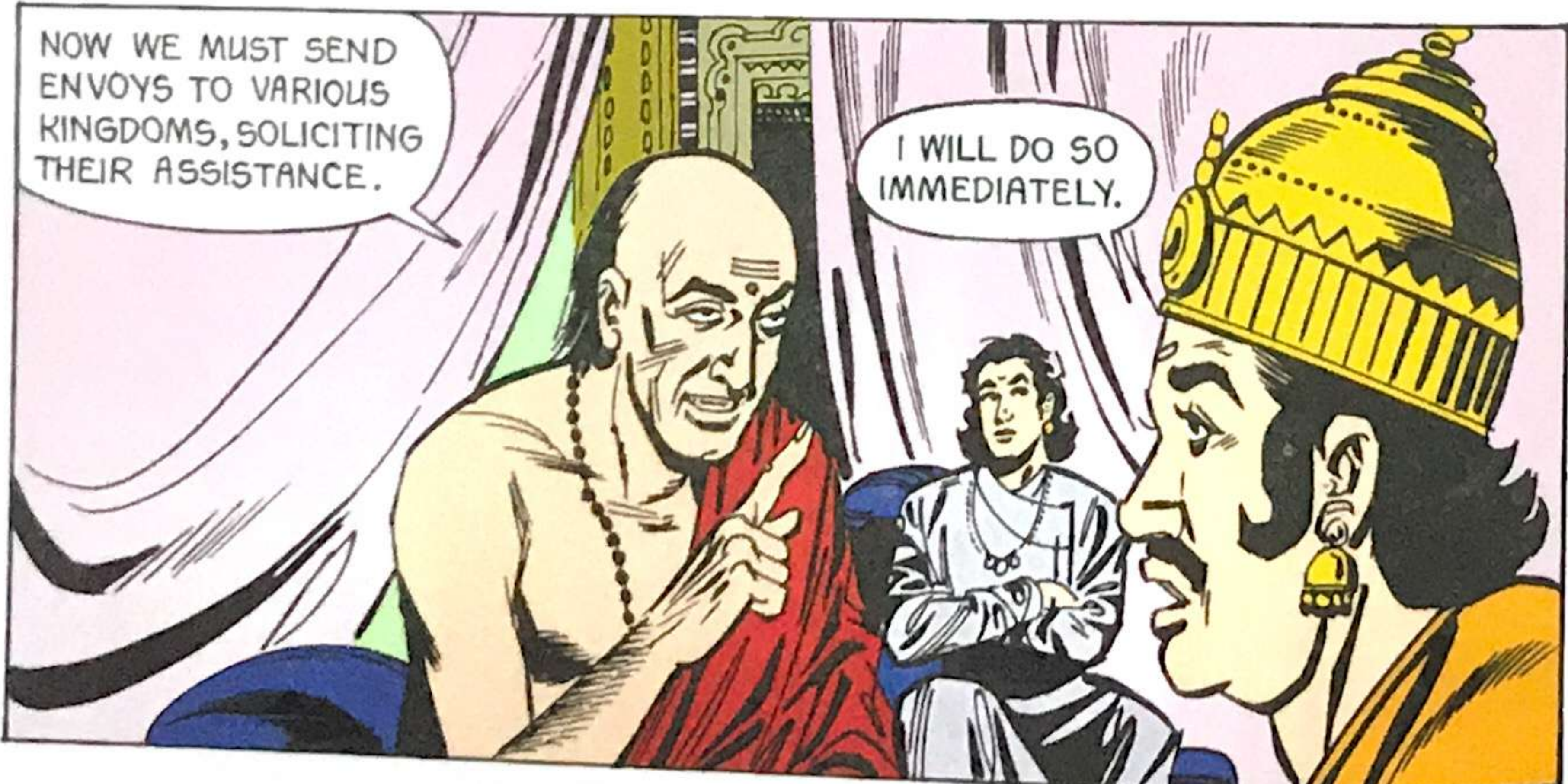
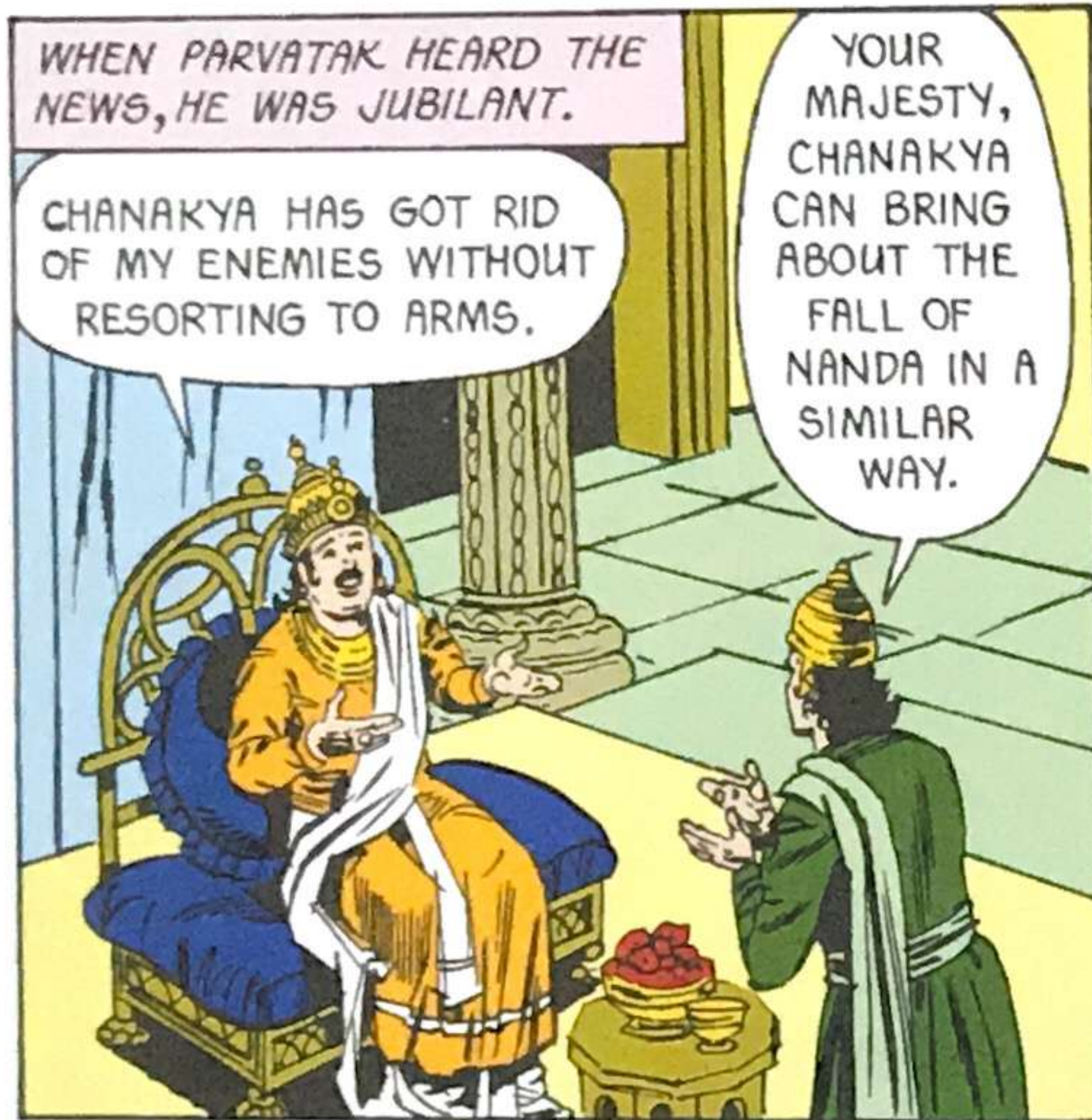
INSTRUCTED BY CHANAKYA, KAMALAPIDA AND HIS COMPANION LEFT FOR THE KINGDOM OF KAMARUPA. WHEN THEY REACHED THE GARDEN AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CAPITAL—

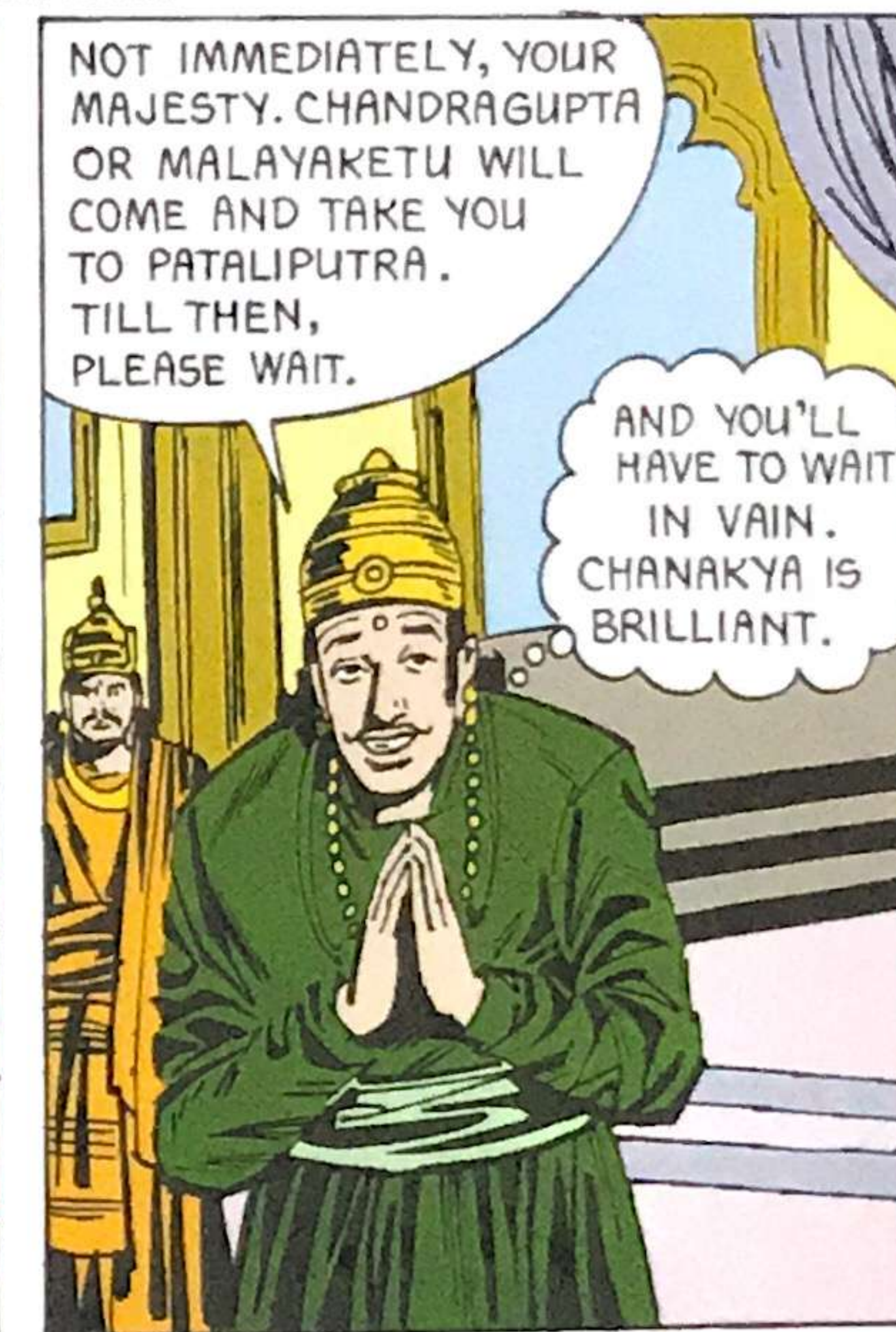
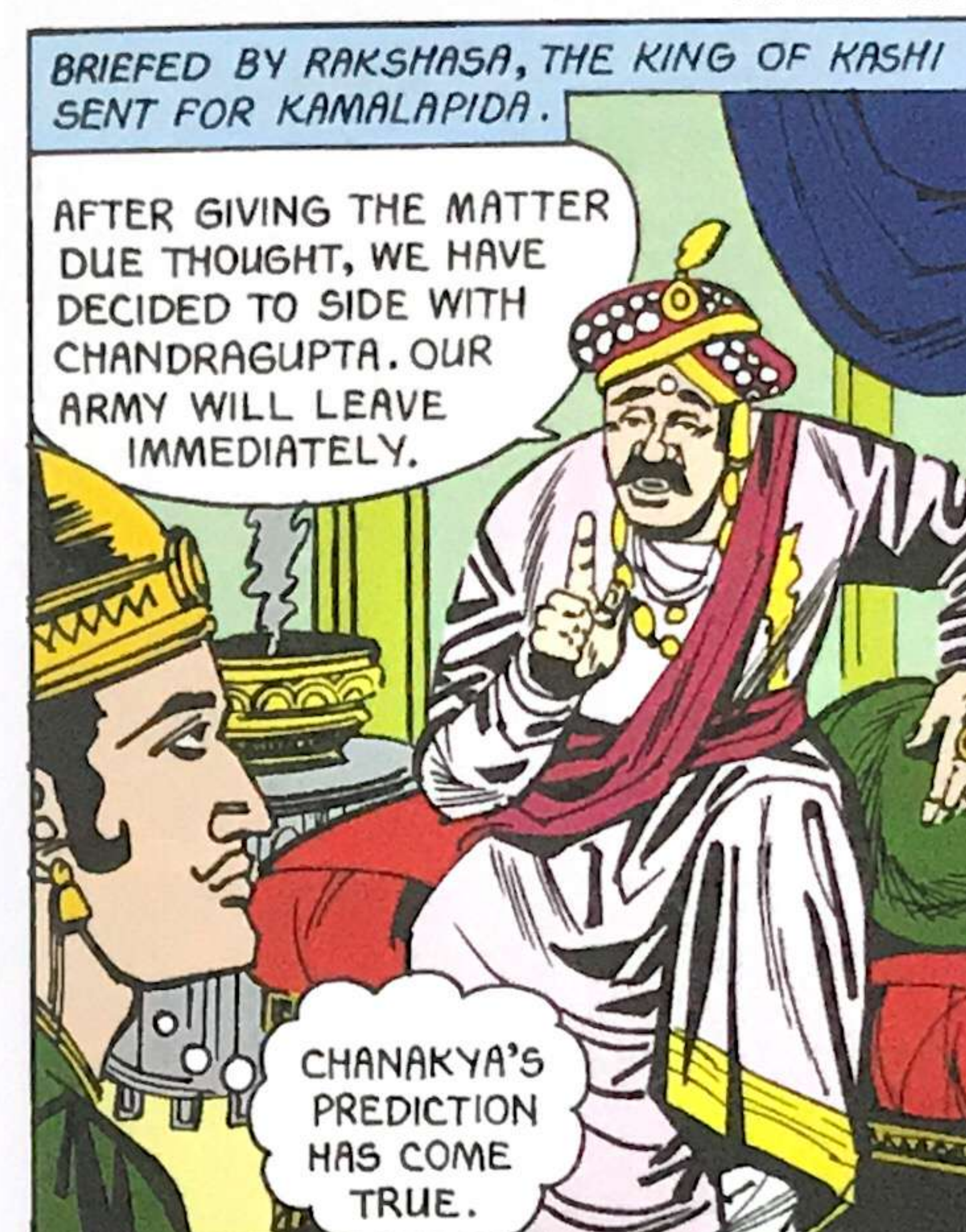
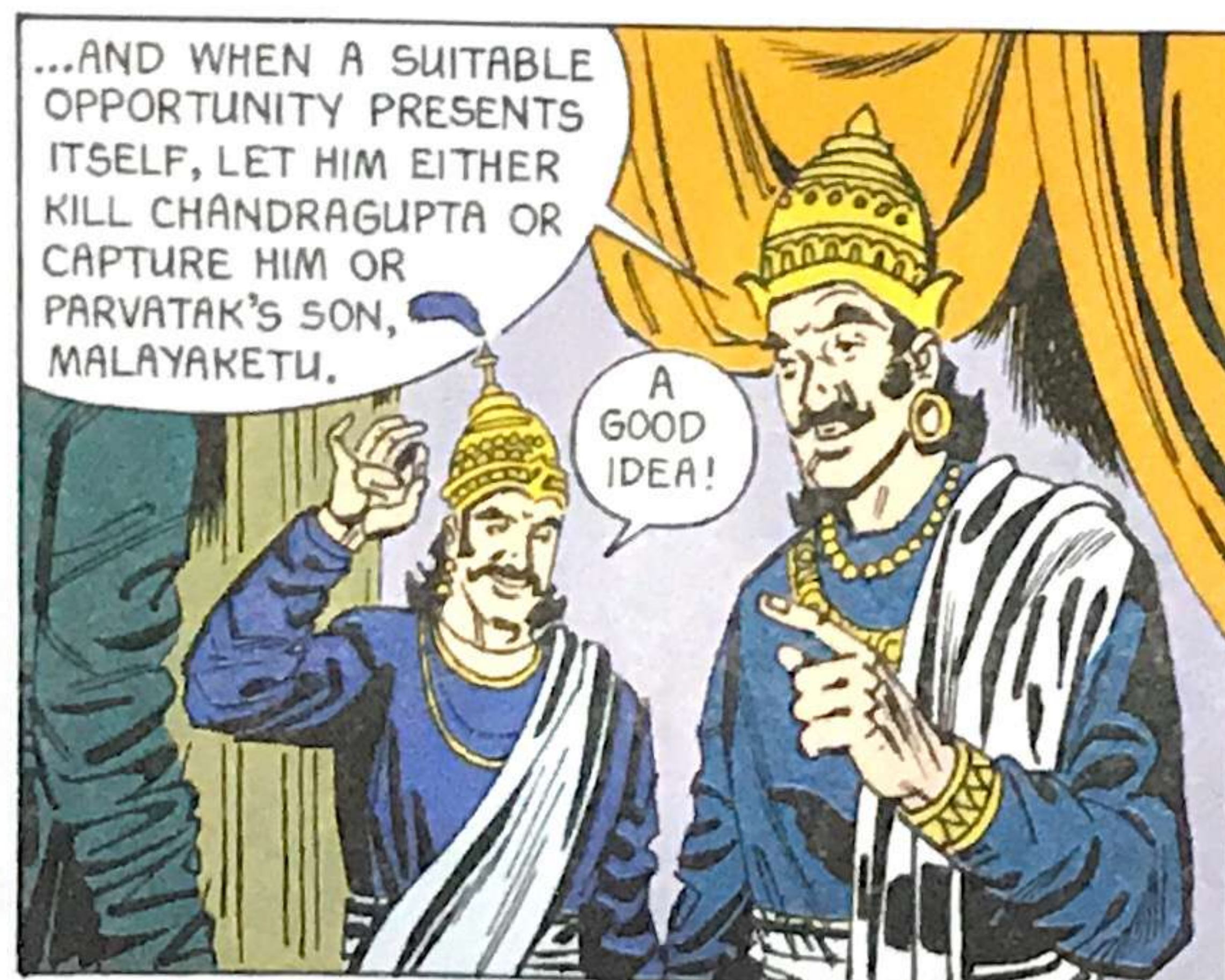
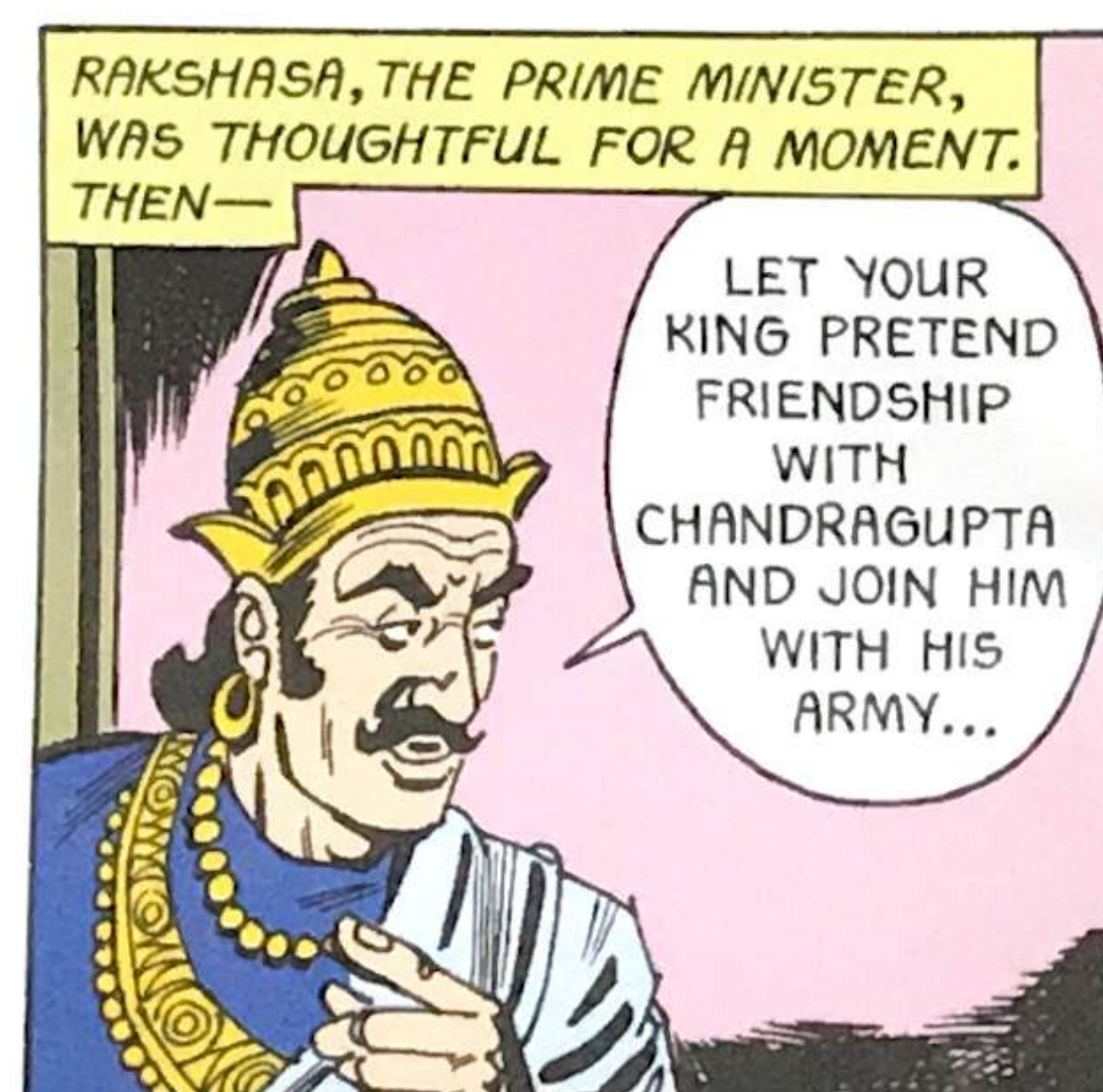


KAMALAPIDA SOON REACHED THE COURT OF THE KING OF KAMARUPA.

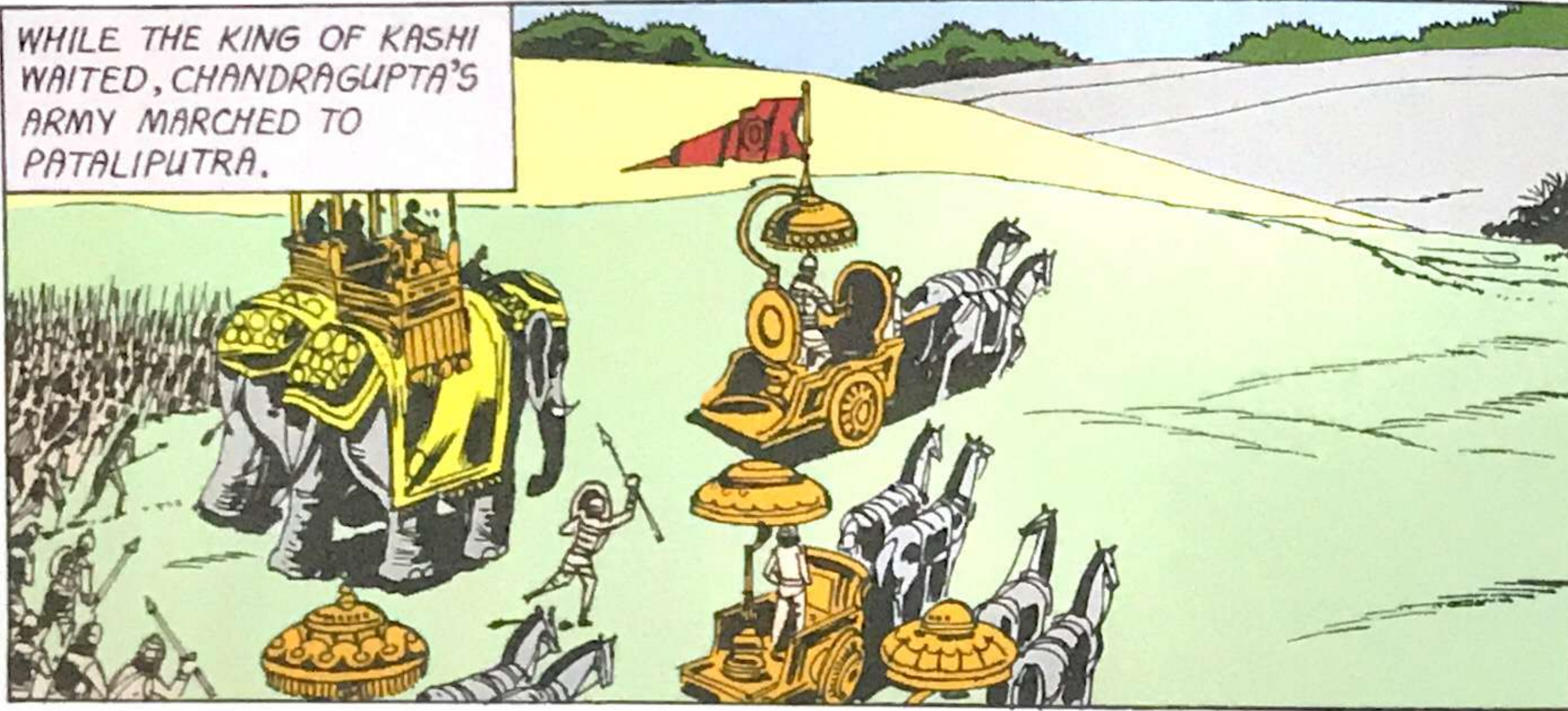








WHILE THE KING OF KASHI WAITED, CHANDRAGUPTA'S ARMY MARCHED TO PATALIPUTRA.



NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS LEFT FOR THE BATTLE-FIELD. ON THE WAY—



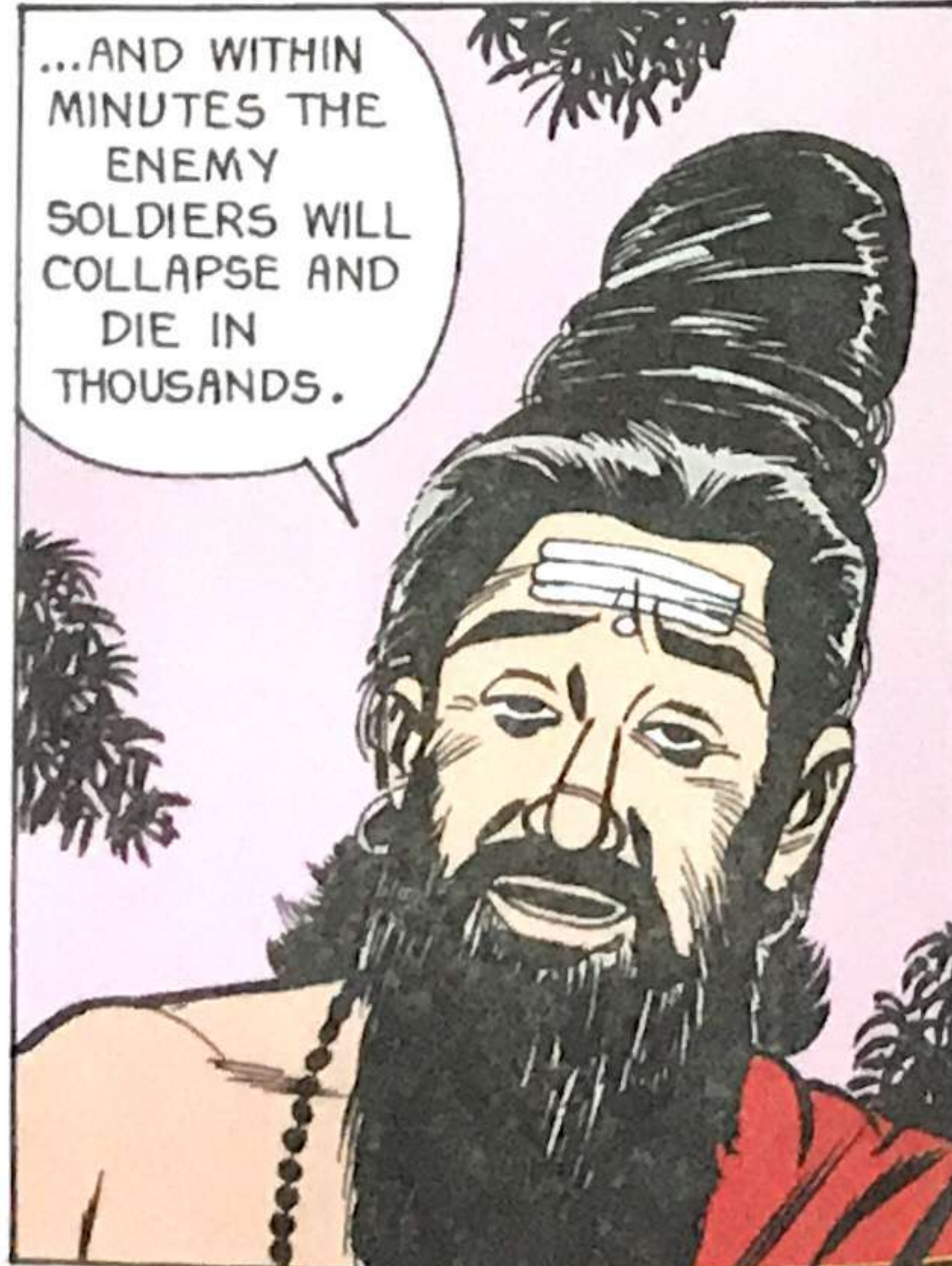
ISN'T THAT THE YAGNA* RAKSHASA HAS ARRANGED FOR OUR VICTORY?

NANDA PAID HIS RESPECTS TO SAGE MASOPAVASI WHO WAS CONDUCTING THE YAGNA.



TOMORROW, WHEN THE FINAL OFFERING IS MADE, A DIVINE HAND WILL EMERGE FROM THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE TO RECEIVE IT...

...AND WITHIN MINUTES THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WILL COLLAPSE AND DIE IN THOUSANDS.



* FIRE-SACRIFICE

NANDA WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED.

HOLY ONE, COULD WE COME AND WITNESS THE FINAL OFFERING?

YOU ARE WELCOME.



NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS TOOK LEAVE OF THE SAGE AND WENT THEIR WAY.



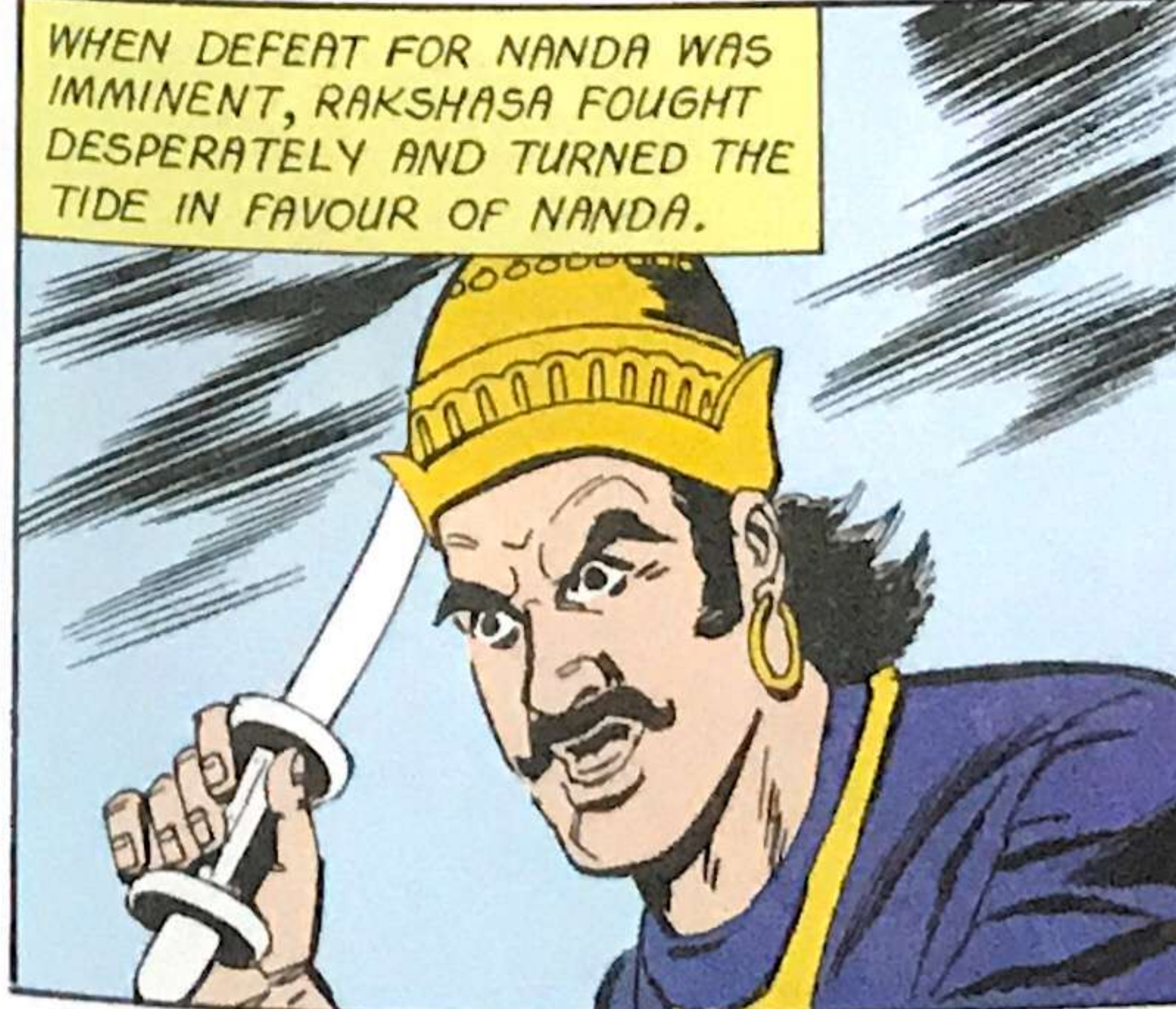
IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, CHANDRAGUPTA'S FORCES HAD AN EDGE OVER THE ENEMY.

TURN BACK!

CHANDRAGUPTA IS AFTER US.



WHEN DEFEAT FOR NANDA WAS IMMINENT, RAKSHASA FOUGHT DESPERATELY AND TURNED THE TIDE IN FAVOUR OF NANDA.



AT THE END OF THE DAY'S BATTLE—

BUT FOR YOUR COURAGE, RAKSHASA, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN DEFEATED. WE ARE INDEBTED TO YOU.

I ONLY DID MY DUTY.

